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SOMERSETSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY'S
PROCEEDINGS, 1875.



VOL. XXI

Taunton

FREDERICK MAY, HIGH STREET
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Preface.
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In accordance with the direction of the Council, some changes in form have been made in this Volume, which will at once mark the beginning of a New Series, and will, it is hoped, be held to be an improvement. The Index to the first Twenty Volumes of the Society's *Proceedings* has been ready for some time, but, as with this will be published the Indexes to the Wells Chapter Records, which are not quite ready, the forthcoming of the whole has been delayed: this delay will shortly be over. This Volume of *Proceedings* would have been sent out a good while ago had it not been for the time which the production of the coloured diagrams has taken on all sides. The accuracy and beauty of their execution will, I hope, be considered an excuse for the delay. The thanks of the Society are due to the Hon. and Rt. Rev. Bishop Clifford for the map which he has presented to the Society, and to Mr. J. Mc Murtrie and Mr. Samson for the trouble which they have kindly taken in the preparation of their plans.

W. H.

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Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archaeological and
Natural History Society,
during the Year 1875.

THE Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Society was held at FROME, on Tuesday, August 10th, in Mr. Harrold's Auction Mart.

The public proceedings began at 12 noon. The Chair was taken by the President, Mr. H. DANBY SEYMOUR. The President said that he had a very short duty to perform, it was to resign his office as President, and to propose as his successor the Right Honourable THE EARL OF CORK AND ORRERY, the Lord Lieutenant of the County. The proposal was seconded by Mr. R. K. M. KING. Mr. H. D. Seymour then left the Chair, and the Earl of Cork was voted President with much applause. The new President thanked the Society, and spoke of the ability of Mr. Danby Seymour, the interest which he took in the well-being of the Society, and in the furtherance of the objects for which it was founded, and of the efficient way in which he had during the last year filled the office of President. The noble President welcomed the Society to Frome, and said that he would do all in his power to make the meeting both profitable and pleasant.

The PRESIDENT then called upon the Rev. W. HUNT, Honorary Secretary, to read the

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

"The Council of the Society have the pleasure to report that the year which has passed since our last annual meeting has been one of prosperity. The number of members is now 434 (an increase of 31), and there is every reason to believe that it will increase, as the interest which has of late been taken in our proceedings seems to promise that we may look forward to having the means of doing more than we have been able to do in drawing out and preserving those natural, historical, and architectural treasures in which our county is rich. An increased number of Members means greater power given to the Society of carrying out the ends for which it exists ; and at the same time encourages those who are entrusted with the work of forwarding its interests, by assuring them that their work is approved. And though the Council by no means desire numbers alone, yet unless the Society is well supported it will necessarily be unduly crippled in its operations. Each member who has the welfare of the Society at heart can do much for it, and if his tastes or his time do not allow him to join often in its pursuits, he can at least make known its aims and enlist others in its ranks. While on this subject the Council must beg leave to remind the Members of the necessity of punctuality in the payment of their subscriptions. The amount of the present subscription is small compared with the work which the Society undertakes. The publication of the volume of Proceedings, on which much of the welfare of the Society depends, alone takes up so large a part of the yearly receipts that but a small sum is left for the many other purposes for which our Society exists. If the Society is to continue its present work, still more if it may hope some day to engage in some of those undertakings which are continually claiming our attention (such as the publication of the Registers of the Dean and Chapter of Wells), it is necessary that its income should be paid in with regularity.

“It will be recollect that at our last Annual Meeting the completion of the purchase of Taunton Castle was reported to you, and you were informed that part of the purchase money had been borrowed from Stuckey’s Banking Co. A series of entertainments was then in contemplation as a means by which money might be raised for the repayment of this loan and for needful alterations, and your interest was bespoken on behalf of “the Castle Week.” These entertainments have now been held, and the Council rejoice to learn that this effort for the Society has been attended with success. The thanks of the Society are due to those ladies and gentlemen who have worked so well for them—their names are many, but amongst the gentlemen we may perhaps be allowed to mention three to whom we owe much for this and many other things they have done, Mr. W. A. Sanford, Mr. O. W. Malet (one of our Hon. General Secretaries), and Mr. W. E. Surtees. A balance sheet of the receipts and expenses of the “Castle Week” will be published and sent to each Member with the annual volume of Proceedings.

“The Council must mention the munificent offer of Mr. Prankerd, of the Knoll, Bristol, who has taken great interest in the purchase of the Castle, and has promised to give a donation of £100 to pay off the debt, provided fourteen others will come forward with a like sum within six months from the first of August. The Council venture to hope that this example will be followed, and consider that the thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Prankerd.

“During the past year the whole of our collection has been moved to the Castle and arranged by our Curator, and the moving has been managed so carefully by him, that not a single article has been lost or injured.

“Our means have been so scanty that we have been able to do but little in the way of restoration, though we have in some degree fitted up the Castle to meet our requirements. The Great Hall has had its unsightly galleries removed, and has been

decorated with our Wells casts and recoloured. This part of the Castle will be a source of income to the Society, as the Committee propose to let it out for public purposes.

“In the lower story of the Norman Keep a stone doorway has been restored and the partitions removed. Our collection of antiquities has been placed here.

“In the upper story, which has now been made into a large room, entered by a stone archway, we have placed our splendid geological collection. This can now for the first time since the foundation of the Society be seen as it should be. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has kindly directed that specimens from his Cornish mines are to be sent to us, and this will add to the interest and importance of this department. The attics above this story are at present used as store rooms. The ground floor of the south-west tower has been fitted up as a library and Committee room. Better quarters have been provided for our Curator. The upper story is occupied by the ethnological collection. Gas has been laid on in all the rooms, and the roofs have had some repair.

“In the Castle Court Yard a wretched looking red brick erection has been taken down, and this has brought out a very interesting square turret on the east of the entrance, and gives a good view of the house, which, though badly treated in the time of Queen Anne, is of nearly the same date as this side of the Castle. On the east side a path has been made through the grounds to meet a new entrance from North Street. Mr. W. E. Surtees has given a right of way through his premises at this point. The thanks of the Society are due to this gentleman for his kindness, which has proved a great convenience, as visitors are now able to enter the Castle without passing through the Cattle Market.

“The cost of these repairs and restorations has been about £500.

“The Castle week has proved a success, and will greatly help us in the large outlay which we have been forced to make.

Amongst its various features the Council wish to call special attention to our Fine Arts Exhibition, which will remain open during the rest of the month. It has been chiefly furnished by the kind contributions of residents in this county, with the aid of the South Kensington Museum. The articles have been collected and arranged by the exertions of Messrs. W. E. Surtees, A. Malet, C. Eden, and the Rev. I. S. Gale. Upwards of 300 pictures in oil and water colours, some of rare value, adorn the walls. There are many cases of rare and valuable china and articles of virtu, including the priceless Byzantine vase of Mr. Sanford. The Council can say with confidence that as a whole this exhibition has never been equalled in the West of England. Mr. Owen, the chief director of the South Kensington Museum, expressed his full satisfaction with the arrangements and fittings of the Castle, and he has asked that plans should be sent to the South Kensington Museum.

"The Council have long regretted the lack of an Index to the volumes of the Society's Proceedings. Much vexation and loss of time are occasioned by having to search volume after volume for some piece of information which is known to exist in their pages, but the clue to which has been lost. The volumes at present published are rising in value, and an Index volume to the whole set will cause their value to increase. The publication of the Twentieth Volume of Proceedings seems a fitting opportunity to supply this long felt want. The low state of the funds of the Society has hitherto prevented this being done. The Council are now happy to announce that an Index volume to the Twenty volumes already published is in course of preparation by your Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hunt, and that it will be published without any risk or cost to the Society, and will be sold at a price not exceeding that of the ordinary annual volumes. This Index volume will complete a distinct series of the Society's publications, for the Committee have requested the Secretary in charge of the publishing work of the Society to make such changes in the form of the next volume of Proceedings as may

seem to mark the beginning of a new series of volumes, in order that newly-elected Members may not have fragments of a set. The Council hope that Members will avail themselves of the opportunity which will be given to them of enhancing the value of the volumes which they at present possess, by giving orders for this Index volume, and will secure those at whose risk this scheme is undertaken from ultimate loss. The publishers will, with the sanction of the Committee, shortly forward a prospectus to every Member.

“The Council have received the following report from the sub-Committee appointed at our last annual meeting, held at Sherborne, to secure the preservation of the buildings of the Vicar’s Close at Wells, and to forward any plan for its judicious restoration. The Committee consists of the Bishop of the Diocese, Canon Meade, the Members of Parliament for the division of mid-Somerset, Messrs. W. A. Sanford, F. H. Dickinson, T. Serel, and the Rev. W. Hunt, as Secretary.

C O M M I T T E E O N T H E V I C A R ’ S C L O S E .

The Committee appointed last year at Sherborne to secure the preservation of the buildings of the Close and to forward any plans for judicious restoration have to report that two of their members, Mr. Neville Grenville and Mr. Dickinson have had an interview with the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who promised that the reversionary interest in the Commissioners in the Houses in the Close should not be sold. They have also to report that a careful restoration of the Chapel will probably be made, and that it has been leased to the Trustees of the Theological College by the College of Vicars Choral, at a nominal rent, for a term of fifty years, with a view to that restoration. Perhaps it may be as well that this Committee be made permanent, with the addition of the name of the Rev. E. L. Elwes, who has planned the restoration.

“The Council recommend the adoption of the report, and

also that this sub-Committee should be made permanent with the addition of the name of the Rev. E. L. Elwes.

“The Council have received the following report from the sub-Committee appointed to further the publication of the Wells Ecclesiastical Records. This committee consists of Messrs. F. H. Dickinson, J. Batten, T. Serel, and the Honorary Secretaries.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELLS ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

After a discussion raised by Mr. Serel of Wells, at our meeting in 1871, on the Ecclesiastical Documents at Wells, a Committee was appointed to carry out his suggestions.

They have since given their attention more particularly to the Records of the Chapter, and have prepared for publication copies of the indexes to those records, which they recommend for publication in the next proceedings of the Society ; or, if that is impossible, separately by subscription.

In the course of the last year the attention of the Committee was drawn to a publication by direction of the Master of the Rolls of the earliest Register of the Bishops of Durham, that of Bishop Kellawe, 1311-6, and application was made to him by the Committee for the publication of the Register of Bishop Drokensford, 1309-29, the earliest extant at Wells, and he has been so good as to say that he will consider their application when he proposes to the Treasury, at the beginning of next year, the works which he desires to publish.

Copies of the application and reply are submitted with this report.

“The Council recommend the adoption of this report.”

This report, with the reports of the two committees, was declared adopted.

The PRESIDENT then called upon the Rev. W. Hunt, in the absence of the Treasurers, to read the following FINANCIAL STATEMENT :—

*Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting.***The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.**

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
1874, Aug. 14.	£ s d	1874-5.	
By Balance of former Account	12 5	To Expenses attending Annual Meeting,	
Excursion Tickets	14 15 0	Advertising, &c.	15 10 2
" One Life Member	10 10 0	" Repairs, &c.	10 0
" Entrance Fees	18 10 0	" Stationery, Printing, &c.	13 10 10
" Subscriptions	183 12 0	" Coal, Gas, Water	20 0 1
" Museum Admission Fees..	8 9 7	" Curator's Salary to Midsummer, 1875	65 7 6
Sale of Volumes from Mr. " May	40 0 7	" Half Year's Rent to Institution for Rooms	15 0 0
Sale of Volumes and Illus- trations	5 5 6	" Mr. May for printing and binding Vol. XIX.	72 11 6
" Transferred from Castle Purchase Fund, on ac- count of Printing, Pos- tage, &c.	10 0 0	" Ditto on account of Vol. XX.	20 0 0
	£ 291 15 1	" Engraving and Printing Illustrations	16 1 3
		" Rates and Taxes	5 13 0
		" Subscription to Palæontographical Society, 1875	1 1 0
		" Ditto, to Harleian Society, 1875	1 1 0
		" Ditto, to Ray Society, 1875	1 1 0
		" Postage of Volumes of Proceedings	10 13 5½
		" Postages, Carriage, &c.	6 0 3
		" Sundries	2 18 10½
		Balance	24 15 2
	£ 291 15 1		

H., H. J., & D. BADCOCK, *Treasurers.*

Examined, compared with the vouchers, and found correct, Aug. 6th, 1875.

HENRY ALFORD.
C. J. TURNER.

Mr. W. A. SANFORD said that he thought the present a fitting opportunity for calling the attention of the Members to the way in which the Society was crippled in its work for want of funds. By the time that the absolutely necessary expenses of the Society were paid there was nothing, or next to nothing, left to meet any demand, however much it might be for the welfare of the Society or for the furtherance of its objects. The Members could not but be aware that the present subscription was exceedingly small, considering that it entitled each Member to receive a copy of the annual Journal. It was so small that he thought that it was quite impossible that it should remain at the present amount. He could not make any proposition on the subject at present; he only wished to throw out a suggestion which he hoped would be carefully considered by all during the year which must pass before they again met as at present. He was sure that there were many who were able and willing to increase their subscription. He thought that it might be well if those who felt inclined to do so should for the future pay a guinea subscription, while others could of course

continue Members at the same subscription as they had paid heretofore, and that all new Members should pay one guinea entrance fee, and one guinea each year as subscription.

The Rev. W. HUNT said that he could endorse all that Mr. Sanford had said as to the way in which the Society was cramped for want of funds. Year after year it had been proposed that some work should be done by the Society of great and lasting importance, such as the publication of the Indexes to the Wells Records, but each year the schemes had to be laid aside for want of funds. Even additions to the Museum had to be made by a special appeal. As to Mr. Sanford's scheme he could not as yet express any opinion upon it.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD thought that if there were two classes of subscriptions there must also be two classes of Members. Instead of the arrangement which Mr. Sanford proposed, which would, he thought, cause an invidious distinction between the older Members, and also probably check the present rate of increase of the number of new Members, he thought that it would be fairer if the Members who lived near Taunton—say within a radius of ten or twelve miles,—and who therefore derived much more benefit from the Society than those who lived in other parts of the county, should pay the larger sum, while the subscription of Members who resided at a distance, and who probably hardly ever saw or used the Museum, should remain as at present.

The Report of the Treasurers was then received and adopted.

The Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the addition of Mr. H. Danby Seymour.

The Treasurers, General Secretaries, and District Secretaries were re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Committee:—Mr. H. Alford, Rev. I. S. Gale, Mr. R. K. Meade King, Mr. A. Malet, Mr. Cecil Smith, and Rev. W. P. Williams.

Mr. W. Bidgood was re-elected Assistant Secretary and Curator, and Mr. SANFORD spoke of the untiring energy and

care which he had shown in the removal of the Society's collections from their old quarters to the Castle.

Mr. SANFORD then proposed that the next Annual Meeting of the Society should be held at Bath. He had last year proposed Dulverton as the place of meeting for 1876, but as he understood that it was likely that the West of England Society and Southern Counties Association would hold their meeting for 1877 in Bath, and as it was wished on all sides that an early visit should be paid to that city, he thought that it would be well to make it next year.

Rev. W. HUNT seconded the proposition, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. MOORE and Rev. H. H. WINWOOD both expressed their pleasure at this decision, and said that they were sure that the Society would be heartily welcomed in Bath.

Six gentlemen were then elected by acclamation as new Members of the Society, the rule requiring ballot being suspended for the occasion.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his

Inaugural Address.

THIS year the Somersetshire Archæological Society has chosen as its place of meeting the town of Frome, the centre of a district which to the student of archæology especially presents many attractions. Our possessions may not be so widely known to fame, perhaps, as the remnants of Nineveh or the ruins of Troy. But as compared with the value of those memorials, which chronicle only the doings of a single period, you have for investigation in this part of the county of Somerset relics of ancient Britons, Romans, Danes, Saxons, and Normans, each contributing in turn to increase the store of knowledge which you as Archæologists are accumulating. Scarcely necessary is it however for me to enlarge on the value of this district as a field of inquiry. To the Archæologist all that is valuable

anywhere and everywhere belongs. There is not a carved capital but has its story for him ; not a stone or monument but yields him food for thought ; not a fossil or shell, or ancient door, but adds to the knowledge which he wishes to gain. And were the district to which you are come apparently less fertile in archæological treasures, there would be, for all that, necessarily sufficient to reward the research. Somersetshire however is a country which is well and favourably known to Archæologists everywhere. Its very name has furnished ground for valuable discussions, some insisting that the summerlike temperature of the atmosphere during a certain portion of the year gained it enviable notoriety, while others who call to mind its condition in winter, the dirty state of its roads, and the marshy character of the land, as shewn in the old proverb, "Bad for the rider but good for the abider," declare that the name of the county is derived from the town of Somerton, and in support of their assertion quote Asser, the old English historian, who always calls it in his writings the County of Sumertun. Be this as it may, I have no intention of re-opening the discussion, nor do I propose to go at any very great length into the history of the county itself. Of its condition during the occupation of the Cangi,¹ we know very little. Presumably these early Britons were about as wild as the rest of their countrymen, and as little inclined to civilisation as the most erratic. Yet they left their mark on the district, and indeed, their names; for have we not Wincanton and Cannington still bearing witness that the Cangi once ruled in the land? The Saxons, however, were a much more practical people. Like their representatives in the Fatherland at the present hour, they appear to have had a very clear idea of the value of territorial property. They parcelled out the land and divided it into kingdoms, seven in number, with a clearness of purpose, which in the eyes of a modern German should give them great favour. And the West Saxon Kings having thus obtained possession of this district in the year

(1). A small tribe of the Belgæ.

519 they did the best they could to make themselves comfortable. So comfortable were they in fact that we hear but little of them till the year 688, when a very notable personage, one King Ine ascended the throne.² Then we find a West Saxon King fighting the men of Kent and extending his kingdom to the south of the Thames on the one hand, attacking the Welsh and beating them on the other, and all the while doing something or other for the cause of religion. The results of his energy and piety were a college at Wells, dedicated to God and St. Andrew, and various other works of lesser note, and it is indirectly to him that we are indebted for the See of Bath and Wells, for it was his immediate successor who turned Ine's college into the seat of a Bishop, about the same time that he rebuilt the famous Abbey of Glastonbury. How great a temptation there is to linger over these so called good old times! The doings of the Earls, who under the West Saxon Kings after Egbert, had rule and sway in this country, and in their own district, had almost absolute power, would doubtless, were they known, read more like a romance than a historic tale. They used, it appears, to have the power of determining all controversies, punishing malefactors, and more generally administering what they were pleased to consider justice. In these days of enlightenment, with a free press and a free platform, our ears are now and then shocked by a somewhat strange freak on the part of individuals appointed to administer the law. But what must have happened in the days when newspapers were unknown, and public meetings were scarcely dreamt of? There were Hun, for instance, and Earwulf, who was killed in 823, of whose origin little is known, but who so bravely fought the invading Danes, and at the head of the men of Somerset and Dorset so beat these old sea kings that for six years they refrained from coming any more. After what sort did they

(2). Ine ascended the throne 91 years after the mission of St. Augustine, and 54 years after Christianity had been first preached to the West Saxons by Birinus.

administer the laws and decide between the common people? We may have sadly degenerated, as some people tell us, in these modern days; but there are few, for all that, who would care to go back to the laws and customs of Ethelbald and Edmund Ironsides, even for the pleasure of beating the Danes once more. Yet they were brave men and left "footprints on the sands of time," as Longfellow says, and we as Archæologists in Somersetshire have much for which to be very grateful to them.

Then, to leave history for a moment, the Archæologist finds himself here in a district of great importance, geologically speaking. The sister science indeed finds here the most wonderful examples. In Somersetshire the greatest extremes meet, and the various strata, which usually can only be examined by traversing vast distances, are brought together—the lowest and latest formations are all close at hand. In the Mendip Hills, which commences not very far from this place, are fine specimens of trap or volcanic rock. Mines of lead and zinc, worked long ago by the Romans, have been recently reopened on their summit. North of the Mendip range are wide spreading coal fields. Of red sandstone there are extensive and varied deposits. The limestone near Milverton is full of interesting fossils. Lias may be found at Taunton, Somerton, and Combwich. Oolite is discovered at Castle Cary and Bath. Iron too seems to have been smelted in this neighbourhood, near Bunns Lane, for a few years ago some gentlemen came upon a heap of what appeared to them to be charcoal scoriæ, mixed with iron ore.³ The green sand is found along the eastern border of the county, at the elevated point on which Alfred's tower stands. Although there are no collieries south of the Mendips, there is a reasonable probability on geological grounds of coal being found towards the south and south-west, seeing that these hills have evidently been lifted up through what was once continuous strata. Dr. Buckland was of this opinion,

(3). The Iron Mells Bridge.

and a report to a similar effect by a distinguished member of the Royal Society, Mr. John Prestwick, was a few days ago placed in my hands. Altogether then this district is peculiarly rich in valuable fossils and curious disruptions.

Then architecturally we have many objects of note in this county of ours. Take for instance the Abbey of Glastonbury, founded in the first instance by Joseph of Arimathea, whom Philip, or the Apostle St. Paul sent to preach the gospel in Britain, and styled by our ancestors the first land of God, the origin and foundation of all religion in England ; or in our own immediate neighbourhood at Witham, the first priory of the Carthusian monks in England, founded by Henry II., and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. John Baptist, and All Saints. The ruins of the monastery have been removed, and the church, erected about 1175 by the third Prior, Hugh, who was sent for expressly from the Chartreuse to establish order among the monks who had been most troublesome to his two predecessors, is the only remaining portion of the building. St. Hugh was afterwards created Bishop of Lincoln and died about 1129. There are, I believe, only two other churches left which were built by this body of monks, though there were seven or eight different settlements of them, and, with the exception of the Cathedral at Wells and Abbey in Bath, it is the only church in the diocese with a stone vaulted roof. Then there are the curious old sculptures at Wellington, the rich stonework in Wells Cathedral, the Castle at Taunton, also the Abbey at Sherborne, to say nothing of the places of interest you are shortly about to visit, and the scores of other interesting spots where in years gone by you have pleasantly wandered.

As a Natural History Society too you will find much that will please and reward you. For amongst the fossils to which mention has been made and in the skeletons discovered at various times, you have the richest possible store of specimens both of fauna and flora. Bats, shrews, seals, red and fallow deer, dolphin, grampus and whale, vultures, eagles, owls of all

kinds, and a hundred birds long since departed, are all here, and it would need a long list, much longer than I have time for, to enumerate one half of these undoubted treasures.

While, historically, the student of ancient times might spend much time and gain much knowledge as he visited Ilchester, where Roger Bacon was born in 1214; Wrington, where the great philosopher Locke first saw light; Taunton, with its memories of Charles II, and its hall where the infamous Jefferies held the Bloody Assize; Castle Cary, where the Duke of Monmouth once found shelter; Sedgmoor, the scene of his defeat; Dunster rising at the foot of a fortress reared by the Norman to curb the Englishman. But with such treasures at your feet it would be prodigal to attempt all at once even were that possible; and therefore it is that you confine yourself to certain districts each year, and, like the Saxons of old, parcel out the land, making the most of what is to be gained by careful research.

This year then you are in the Frome district, and are about to consider its archaeological specimens. A very fruitful district is that to which you have come. Here it was that Adhelm, the kinsman of King Ine, built a monastery in honour of St. John the Baptist, somewhere about the year 705. And what more fitting name could there be, St. John had preached in the wilderness, they also had a wilderness in the great forest of Selwood, and a river flowing not far below the foundations of their church. Unfortunately for the monks, however, the Danes made a sudden inroad, and so persecuted the holy men that Frome monastery was speedily deserted, although the church that belonged to it lasted till the reign of King Stephen. Indeed at Lower Keyford some vestiges of the building now remain, but they are now converted into small houses for poor families. St. Aldhelm is said to have been buried in a wooden church at Doulting, about seven miles from this place. Then there is a record of the Norman land survey of Frome still extant, by which it appears that it yielded to the King fifty-

three pounds and five pence yearly. Parenthetically I may mention also that a return which was made in 1569, of all able men in the Hundred of Frome, shows that there were then 188 in all, namely, light horsemen, 8; pikemen, 52; archers, 51; bell men, 51, and gunners, 15; while out of a rate of £8,000, collected in the county of Somerset in 1636, for the purpose of preparing a ship of 800 tons, the Hundred of Frome contributed £250. Frome appears also to have been famous so long ago as 1623 for its cloth manufactory, depending entirely (owing to the wooded character of its neighbourhood) for its supply of corn and the other necessities of life upon Wiltshire. Its inhabitants too at that period seem to have been very abstemious, for I find it stated in an old record that the number of alehouses had been reduced. Of the church I will say nothing beyond recalling to your memories that it was here that good old John Humphrey, in 1662, choosing rather to obey the dictates of conscience than the behests of a thoughtless king, was ejected from his living as Vicar of Frome, and with the rest of the nonconforming clergy of that time, went out like Abraham of old "not knowing whither he went." Here too it was that Bishop Ken, who died while on a visit to his friend and patron Lord Weymouth, was reverently buried. Of the curious monuments and plates to be found on its ancient walls, two or three demand particular attention, more especially the petition for prayerful remembrance on behalf of Henry Champneys, and a later epitaph to one of the Leverege family. Leaving these you will proceed to Vallis, with its beautiful vale and wonderful rocks, affording deep interest to all who learn lessons from the grand book of nature.⁴ Wednesday will be a day of great enjoyment, for the programme is a very varied one. Orchardleigh, with its old church and the Champneys monuments, will be your first visit, passing by the old stone, about which there is so much mystery, and which will afford you a fair field for original thought and discussion. Then Lullington church, with

(4). Explained by Mr. Moore.

its curious associations, will stand for your inspection. In the year 1292 the value of the living was six pounds, and in Henry the Eighth's time, when that merry monarch dispossessed the Prior of Longleat to whom the advowson belonged, it fell into the hands of John, Prior of the Carthusians, and eventually became the property of the Earl of Hertford. Philips Norton, with its famous old George Inn, and Farleigh Castle will be the next places on your route. The former is a remarkable looking structure of the 15th century. By some it has been thought to have built as a kind of hunting box for Henry VII. Its chief interest however consists in the fact of Monmouth having slept there on the night of the battle when his troops were defeated by the royal army under Feversham and compelled to retreat southward by Frome and Bridgwater to Sedgmoor, where as you all know was fought the battle which ended in his total discomfiture, his subsequent flight, capture and execution. Thence you will return to Beckington, the birthplace of the good Bishop Beckington. The church will be found well worthy a visit, containing as it does several very curious plates and monuments, which shed a great light on the thoughts and doings of the olden time. Here it is that John Cooper, ancestor of the Earl of Shaftesbury, was buried, and bequeathed the sum of forty shillings in consideration of being placed under the high altar. Samuel Daniel, once poet laureate to Queen Elizabeth, also lies in this church and has a monumental bust erected to his memory by the Countess of Dorset.

On Thursday, after a peep at Longleat House, and a short time spent at Holwell quarry, mainly on behalf of geological friends, your steps will be directed to Nunney Castle, with its church and manor house. The name of the place derived from an old nunnery which in Saxon days stood on the banks of the stream hard by, first strikes your attention. You are face to face to antiquity at once, and from beginning to end you are studying English history all the while you prolong your stay. The castle, built about the end of the 13th century by Sir John

Delamere, could, were walls to find speech, tell a marvellous tale. Leland, who wrote about it in the time of Henry VIII, thought it a "pratty castle," but said the interior was somewhat dark. Probably prisoners thought so too. The walls were very strong and the moat was then 20 feet deep. King Charles I thought it a place of some strength for he garrisoned it and left a great store of powder in its precinct. The Parliamentary army however found a way of getting in, and the shattered walls tell to-day how very rough were these practical Puritans. Having thus endeavoured briefly to give you a description of the places to be visited, I will conclude with the hope that your visit to Frome may prove both interesting and profitable. The advantages of such researches as these are too patent to need any eulogy from me. To the archæologist himself they afford undoubted pleasure, while to all the community besides they are of paramount importance. For it is by labours, such as those to which you are about to devote yourselves, that history is completed and perfected. The rise and progress of the institutions and of the constitution, which we as Englishmen hold so dear, are set forth in these stones, monuments, and carvings. From them we learn how

"The thoughts of men have widened
With the process of the suns,"

and are able to deduce lessons which are of the utmost importance, politically and socially. How valuable such knowledge is I need scarcely say. By ascertaining the mistakes of the past we are able to avoid errors in the future. By learning the dangers which have beset our liberties in times that have gone by, we are induced to set more store upon the freedom we possess. And comparing the life of the nation in ages when education and civilisation were in their infancy with these more enlightened days, we are led to conclusions which have a beneficial effect upon our thoughts and actions alike. Fortunately for us this very knowledge is to be obtained in the most agreeable manner. Our lessons are holiday trips, our hardest tasks

congenial discussions. Adopting Carlyle's language, we as archaeologists say,

“In what land the sun does visit
Brisk are we whate'er betide
To give space for wandering is it,
That the world was made so wide.”

And wandering, not listlessly, but intelligently, we daily add to the store of knowledge which we possess, and are stimulated to yet farther researches and more persistent inquiries.

Mr. E. A. FREEMAN proposed, and Mr. H. DANBY SEYMOUR seconded, a vote of thanks to his lordship for his address, and requested that he would allow it to be printed in the next volume of Proceedings.

At 2 p.m. the Society visited the

Church of St. John the Baptist.

The Vicar was unfortunately prevented by ill health from acting as guide to the building. In his absence the Senior Curate, the Rev. A. G. MORTIMER, gave the following account of the history of the church—

“This church was founded by S. Aldhelm, towards the end of the 7th century, about A.D. 680. There is a passage in Faricius, who wrote the life of S. Aldhelm, to this effect. Faricius' words are these:—‘Aldhelm therefore applied for an edict ratified by the authority of the Supreme Pontiff to the effect that the monasteries which by God's grace he was with great care governing namely—Malmesbury where he had been installed, built by Maidulph of holy memory, from whose race that saint was descended, and another built in honour of S. John, on the river which is called Froome might be rendered free from all secular service.’

“In Ingram's Saxon Chronicle we are told that King Edred died at Frome, and possibly his body may be lying within the church's walls.

“In Domesday Book we have a full description of the

church property belonging to Frome, and it must by then have been of some importance as Reinbald was then Priest who was Chancellor both to Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror.

“Probably the old Saxon church remained till about Stephen’s reign, indeed it is mentioned in William of Malmesbury. The church was then entirely rebuilt in the reign of Stephen. The foundations of the north and south doorways of the porches, a doorway in the west wall of the Lady Chapel, and the foundations of the arcades west of the porches still remain as works of this century. In the thirteenth century the chancel arch seems to have been built, the tower also as high as the sills of the belfry window, and the arcade of the nave as far west as the porches. In the 14th century the western portion of the arcade was built on the foundation of the Norman arches, the west front, the windows in the aisles, and the present Lady Chapel. In the 15th century the roof of the nave was raised and the clerestory added, the tower raised with its battlements, and the spire first erected and a rood-loft ; a broken piscina still remains where the altar of the rood-loft would have been, also the S. Andrew’s Chapel was added, and in the early part of the next century the S. Nicholas’ Chapel. I would also observe here that in the tower may be seen some old stones carved with the figures of animals, which were discovered in the restoration. The church has around it four chantry chapels, the earliest the Lady Chapel, first built of much smaller size in Stephen’s reign—a doorway, the piscina, and the base moulding on the outside still remain of this. In 1337 it was rebuilt and enlarged as it is at present. In the ‘Inquisitiones ad quod damnum’ it is found that in the 10th year of Edward III, A.D. 1337, ‘Feodith Russell and others gave certain messuages and lands to a chaplain for performing Divine service in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin in the church of St. John of Frome.’ Again in the 23rd year of Edward III ‘it was granted to Christiana, who was wife of Roger Eliot; Thomas, son of Luce le Webbe ;

William, son of Roger Caynez ; John Honycod ; John, son of John Cable, and John, son of William de Hatcombe, that they may give and assign certain tenements with their appurtenances in Frome to a certain chaplain, to be held in Mortmain.' One Stephen Winslade granted the manor of ' Froome Valleyse' to John Payne of London, and died A.D. 1405, seized of the manor and hundred of Frome, leaving Elizabeth, the wife of Edmund Leversege, his daughter and heiress. This accounts for the armorial bearings of the Leversegens in this chapel. In their family it remained till 1706, when it passed into the hands of Lionel Leaman, and from that family in 1751 it was sold to the family of the Earl of Cork, with whom it remained until the last restoration.

"The next chantry was that of S. John the Baptist on the north side of the choir. It was founded 1377, and Laurence Walshe was the first chaplain. John Lyspole was the last priest who held the chantry, and he was dismissed at the dissolution with a pension of £5. S. Andrew's Chapel on the south side of the choir is the next. Founded in 1412. It has been so altered that there is little of the original chapel left. The endowment of this chapel is given in Collinson. In 1517 license was given to John Cable of Froome Braunch to build and endow a chantry with one chaplain to celebrate the Divine office every day for ever at the altar of S. Nicholas. This chapel is now used as the baptistery, but in the window are four squares of old glass containing the arms of the Cables, and a rebus on their name, a *K* and a bell, the whole enclosed by a rope or cable. These are the only pieces of old glass left in the church, and in the churchwardens' books, which have been preserved from the time of Elizabeth, we find an entry to this effect: 'Paid Mr. Avery one shilling for certificate to ye Parliament that we took down all the painted glass in the church.'

"Under the east window is the grave of Bishop Ken, one of the non jurors, and in the vestry is the chalice and case he used whilst in exile, and which he left to the parish of Frome.

"At the last restoration, which was finished in 1865 under the present Vicar, everything almost had to be renewed, but it was done exactly as it was found—restored stone by stone, so that in form and shape the church is the same old church of S. John of Frome."

Mr. Mortimer illustrated his remarks by references to a good plan of the building.

Mr. PARKER, C.B., said he had been requested to say a few words respecting that very fine church. Their parish churches were not merely historical monuments, but were built for Christian worship. When a church was in a bad state, as that church was at one time, it was necessary to pull it down ; and when a grand work of restoration was accomplished they had no reason to find fault. In the case before them nothing of the original church remained but the plan and the foundations. The church was originally Norman, and several of the piers at the west end were still Norman in their character. To that had been added the chancel. Taken as a whole the church was like a piece of patch-work. There were many things which the clergyman had explained better than he could, as he was not sufficiently acquainted with its local history. For practical purposes the restoration had been well, honestly, and judiciously done. Some additions had been made for ornament, and some changes made, which, as an archæologist, he would rather had been left undone ; but everything had been carried out to make a handsome place for public worship, with a great spirit of liberality; and all that was worth preserving had been preserved. The present arches were faithful representations of the originals, except in one or two particulars. It was not an archæological question, for there was very little that was archæological left, except the plan and the foundations. It was easy to see that the first five arches were Norman, and that there were three different periods represented. The church was now a comparatively modern one, with everything very handsome, and in imitation of the old style.

Mr. FREEMAN said he had read the church in an opposite way to Mr. Parker and Mr. Mortimer. The original church consisted of chancel, tower, and nave, and the 14th century additions were at the west end.

Mr. PARKER : I do not think you will find it so.

Mr. FREEMAN : Is it likely that the church was commenced at the west end, and the additions made at the east end ?

Mr. PARKER agreed that it was not likely.

Mr. FREEMAN said he considered the original church was at the chancel end, where there were little bits of Norman work scattered about here and there.

Mr. DAVIS said that at Ledbury there was a very similar arrangement, but in better style. He did not think there was the slightest ground for saying that the west end was Norman. The doorways were Norman, but they were evidently not in their right places.

Mr. FREEMAN remarked that the removal of doorways was a very common occurrence.

Mr. PARKER said he had taken for granted what had been told him as well as the accuracy of the plan.

Mr. DAVIS said he had no doubt in his mind that the west end was the latest part of the church.

The Rev. A. G. MORTIMER said that Mr. Giles was the architect in the restoration, and that he argued from the north and south porches.

Mr. DAVIS : It is clear that the doors are not in their right places.

Mr. FREEMAN said he saw no signs of Norman work in the pillars referred to. They had before them an example of a church with a single tower on one side, forming a transept ; but the transept on the other side did not take the form of a tower. Similar examples might be seen at Exeter and Ottery St. Mary. Originally there was a nave of three bays, besides the bay formed by the tower. It was in the late 14th or early 15th century style. Somebody had added the four bays of a new

type at the west end—a type which Mr. Davis informed him was local ; but which he had seen scattered about the country : at St. Asaph's Cathedral and Northampton for instance. They would see that the mouldings ran uninterruptedly round the so-called Norman pillars. He hardly knew what to believe. He would like to have seen the church before it was pulled about, so as to have known what it was like. When they had in this county the best type of wooden roof, why should they run away to other counties for inferior specimens ? Why should they go to the east of England for big angels, trefoils, and hammer beams ? When he saw them here in Somersetshire he could not help saying—"Friends, you have no business here ; go back to Norfolk." If he went on he was afraid he should not agree with Mr. Parker. Surely a church might be made as good for the purposes of worship by preserving its ancient features as by doing away with them. The two were not inconsistent. Was Divine worship promoted by taking away a Somersetshire roof and putting a Norfolk one instead ? Could they not pray in an English church as well as in an Italian one ? Why could they not have good honest plaster, with paint on it, instead of long lines of bare masonry ? Why should the statues at the west end be so large, as though they were on a tower 100 feet high ? It was altogether a very remarkable church, and one that had been altered in a very remarkable way, so as to lose many of its original features and interesting peculiarities, and he did not see that the religious purposes of the church had been forwarded thereby. He had no doubt that what he had said would be unpalatable, but he was bound to bear testimony against what seemed to him to be a mere itch for change.

Mr. PARKER pointed out what he considered to be distinct remains of Norman work at the west end of the church.

Mr. KING said that on the whole the glass in the church, though by many different hands, was fairly good. The glass of the Lady Chapel, however, was simply execrable.

Mr. DAVIS denied that the west end of the church was Norman ; the arches and the foundations were a later addition. The doorways could only be accounted for by removal.

Mr. PARKER suggested that the heavy capitals of the Early English period had been blended with the Norman, but that did not disprove that the west end was Norman.

Vallis.

At four o'clock the Society visited *Vallis*. Entering the vale from the Hapsford road a halt was made at the first quarry, where Mr. C. MOORE, F.G.S., became the guide to the party. He said they had standing before them the representatives of three or four distinct geological formations. At the bottom there was the Carboniferous Limestone, planed down almost as smooth and horizontal as a table. Then there came in on the top of the limestone a little band of blue clay ; but between these two there was a gap where thousands of feet of stratified beds should be found ; for while the limestone was the bottom of the coal measures, the blue clay belonged to the Rhætic series. Rocks were known by their organic remains, and they would find no trace of the Carboniferous Limestone passing above the blue clay. There was next a fauna coming in, special to that horizon. Above the blue clay were the pebbly beds, which represented the coast line of the Rhætic sea. Mixed up with those pebbles were various interesting organic remains—all dismembered, nothing perfect, as was the case with the lias ; but they had as interesting a fauna as there was in the world. It consisted of bones, broken and scattered, teeth, scales of fishes, in some instances very numerous. There were also certain forms representing some fourteen or fifteen genera of fishes. Associated with those fish remains were found traces of a little creature, which possessed a great amount of interest. A little kangaroo once walked about that neighbourhood, and they knew very well that the kangaroo was now almost confined to Australia. The kangaroo of that district was almost identical with the little kangaroo rat of Australia.

If they compared the teeth of the one with the teeth of the other they would find scarcely any difference. It was called *Microlestes*. They might depend, therefore, that a little kangaroo once ran about the Mendip hills. He had twenty-nine of the teeth of the animal found in the quarry before them, the teeth having been preserved because the enamel resisted the action of the ocean, and the tossing which they must have had in those pebbly beds. Then there were found various shells, one of which was called the *Avicula Contorta*, which was confined to that horizon ; so that it had been suggested that those beds should be called the *Avicula Contorta* beds. There were other things in those beds, such as plants and insects, but it required a practical eye to detect them. If he had preceded them a few minutes he might have found a few samples. One of the most wonderful features of geology was the preservation of insects. There was a little band before them full of plants and insects. Then again there was a little crustation—pockets in the ocean of the period, which were occupied by a series of *Contorta*. When they were opened up in the direction of their laminæ they were very fine. His friend, Mr. Winwood, had brought him a sample which contained a tiny little tooth, and another on which there was a detached fish-scale. In the next quarry they would find above the white lias, beds of oolite. There was another very interesting feature connected with these quarries. They would see a vein running across the section, which had been filled in with a later material, ages younger than the rocks on each side. Every section had its own special features, and he knew of no neighbourhood that possessed the same amount of interest.

In reply to Sir William V. Guise and Mr. Flatman, Mr. Moore said that the Rhætic beds were in all the quarries, and that they belonged to the same series as the rocks at Holwell.

On the way to the next quarry specimens of *Avicula Contorta* were found by several of the party on a heap of stones ready to be carted away for road mending.

At the next halt Mr. MOORE shortly recapitulated what he had previously stated. Immediately succeeding the Carboniferous Limestone they had a formation which ought to have been thousands of feet higher up. There ought to have been between the limestone and the rubbly or coal measures several thousand feet of Triassic beds; but here resting on the limestone were beds of Rhaetic age. All the rubbly beds represented the oolite period. They were very much fissured, but some of the fissures were not very large. Those fissures were filled up with material millions of years younger, and they might tell the age of the fissures by their organic contents.

Mr. SANFORD pointed out that the blue bands were liassic, not rhaetic.

Mr. MOORE said they had displaced the oolite on either side.

At the junction of the Egford and Bedlam portions of the vale with the Hapsford valley, Mr. MOORE stopped the party in order that they might obtain a view of the "de la Beche" section of rocks, remarkable for the planing down previously referred to.

At the Egford end of the vale, in reply to Sir W. Guise, Mr. MOORE said that the last bed of the Mendips faced the quarry. The quarry had always greatly interested him—not because he obtained many organic remains there, but because of its grandeur, and the manner in which all the features were placed before them. They had a higher section of the Carboniferous beds than they had seen before, with the same features repeated in various phases, going down into the beds of conglomerate. The explanation of this was that the limestone had been fissured and broken up, and there was an infilling of a much later age. There was also a vein in the rocks composed to a large extent of Sulphate of Barytes, showing that lead was not far distant, though they need not think of sinking for it there. If they were going to sink for iron or lead ore, they would go down to a certain point where the edge of the vein sticks out, when they would suddenly lose the vein in which

they were sinking; for curiously enough there had been a shifting of the beds, and they would have to search ten or twelve feet further on before finding the vein. If they simply followed the vein they would come to the Carboniferous Limestone, and they would think that the vein ended, whereas it had only been pushed forward. In another corner of the quarry there was another vein with an ochrous deposit, and still another vein with Inferior Oolite at the top. At the top of the quarry they lost altogether the Rhætic beds of which he had spoken, and they had nothing but Inferior Oolite.

In reply to the Earl of Cork, Mr. MOORE explained the direction in which the coal measures would probably be found.

His LORDSHIP then said they had heard with great interest Mr. Moore's explanations of those very curious quarries. He knew that he had been a frequent visitor to them, and had acted as a friend to him, for though he had shown him little pieces of lead found there, he had recommended him never to sink for it. They would all be pleased to hear a few words from Sir Wm. Guise, who was the President of a similar society in the county of Gloucester.

Sir WILLIAM V. GUISE said he was present as a learner. He had been to those quarries before them in company with several other gentlemen last year, and they went into the whole story of them. They were very remarkable and interesting. Yet if they came into the Cotswold country he should be able to tell them more about it than he could tell about these quarries. He might perhaps throw out a few suggestions. There had been a great motive power at work in that district, displacing the limestone, which he attributed to the disturbances consequent upon the elevation of the Mendips by a process of infinitessimal slowness, by which no less than 4000 feet of coal measures had been swept away, causing a vast denudation. Those who had been to the Vobster coal field, as he had been with Mr. Mc Murtrie, would see that immense beds of mountain limestone had been turned up on their

edges, or turned completely over, by that denudation. It would be quite worth their while to go to Vobster. The disturbance they saw before them was due to the upthrust of the Mendips. He had never met with any one who could say why those vast regions of mountain limestone had been levelled off almost as smooth as a table. Some persons had attributed it to the action of sea water ; but he had never seen such effects produced by the sea.

Mr. MOORE suggested that pebbles, in addition to the sea, would have caused it.

Mr. SANFORD asked whether ice would not have caused the smoothness referred to.

Sir WILLIAM GUISE said that that had been before suggested, and it was not impossible.

Mr. MOORE said they were in possession of facts which proved that that district was at one time entirely covered with ice.

The Old Manor House,

or Dining Hall of the ancient Leversedge family, was next visited. It adjoins the old *Vallis* Farm. It is now used as a carpenter's shop.

Mr. J. H. PARKER, C.B., said that the hall evidently belonged to the time of Henry VII. The roof was still almost perfect. He pointed out where the dais, kitchen, pantry, buttery, etc., must have been.

A large number of Members of the Society, and others, met at dinner at 6.30 p.m., at the George Hotel. At the end of dinner the noble President proposed "The Queen," and "Success to the Society," specially naming Mr. E. A. Freeman, D.C.L., Mr. J. H. Parker, C.B., and Mr. Chas. Moore, who returned thanks. Mr. H. Danby Seymour proposed "The health of the noble President," and the Earl of Cork, in reply, spoke of the well known literary tastes which had made Mr. Seymour so good a President during the past year.

The Evening Meeting

was well attended. At the opening of the meeting Mr. J. H. PARKER called attention to the work of restoration which had just been begun in Witham Friary Church. The present church is part of the first Carthusian Monastery ever founded in England. It has been much marred by modern additions and changes. It is now intended to bring it back as far as possible to the simple dignity of its original form. The ugly Georgian tower at the west is to be pulled down, and a bell-cote put in its place. The church has a stone-vaulted roof throughout, and a simple Norman apse.

Mr. E. A. FREEMAN begged those present to mark the importance of Witham Friary Church as a rare instance of an English parish church with a stone-vaulted roof. Such roofs were common enough across the channel. The real founder of the monastery and the builder of the church was S. Hugh of Grenoble. He brought the idea of the stone roof from his Burgundian home across to England, and so it came about that this Somersetshire church was marked by this grand foreign characteristic. S. Hugh was sent for by King Henry to rule over his new foundation at Witham; it was while he was Prior there, in 1186, that he was chosen Bishop of Lincoln, and as Bishop he still went on with his architectural work, of which the result is now to be seen in his cathedral church.

Rev. A. BURNEY, the rector of Witham, said that the greatest care would be taken to preserve the old features of the church. Several interesting things had been discovered, among them a rood staircase, with the moulding of the doorway corresponding with the moulding of the inner arch of the east window, of about the middle of the 15th century. The font, the licence of which was granted by Bishop Beckington, has also been found in the north wall. It seems that the outer walls were once cased. Every care should be taken of the vaulting, and the restoration

should be thoroughly conservative in character. Funds were urgently needed for the work.

The President then called on the Hon. and Right Rev. Bishop Clifford, who read a paper on the "Site of the Battle of Æthandune, and the Campaign of 878,"¹ which he illustrated by a large map.

Mr. FREEMAN said that he could not agree with some of the statements which had been made by the Bishop, and especially differed from him in the estimate which he seemed to have formed of the value of some of his authorities. At the same time the paper was most ingenious, and he cordially welcomed every such attempt to solve some of the difficult questions about the identity of places which often puzzled the student of history.

Mr. H. D. SEYMOUR then read a paper by Mr. C. H. Samson, of Dunster, on "Some discoveries which had been recently made at S. Mary's Abbey, Old Cleeve."²

Mr. CHAS. MOORE, F.G.S., then gave a description of the geological characteristics of Vallis. He said that having spoken already to them on the subject it became a question to him whether he could make the physical character of the district further interesting to them. But it was probably not quite exhausted. He had before mentioned that the county of Somerset had as large a share of interest geologically as any county in England, and it was so for this reason, that there were represented in it nearly all the geological formations which occur on the face of the earth. That was saying much, but there were very few formations which were not represented within the boundary of the county. And, interesting as the county of Somerset was, the greatest amount of interest was centred in the neighbourhood of Frome. He knew no locality in England,

(1). Printed in Part II.

(2). When Mr. Samson wrote this paper for the Society the excavations at Cleeve Abbey were still in progress. The work has now been finished, and Mr. Samson has most kindly made such additions to, and changes in his paper, as bring in the whole of what has yet been discovered. The paper, which has thus been in a great part rewritten, is printed in Part II.

or even in the world, which was more interesting than the district a few miles round that town. That circumstance arose from the disturbance which had been effected by the elevation of the Mendip range, which they knew formed the backbone of the county. The most easterly portion of that range was seen in the valley which they had visited that day, or rather the most easterly extension of the carboniferous limestone would be seen at Howell, on the Nunney road, and in a valley at Spring Gardens, near Mr. Shepherd's mill. The carboniferous limestone then passed under the secondary formations, and was never seen in England again to the east of these two places. The Mendip hills passed through the whole of our county to Weston-super-Mare; their equivalents were seen in the islands of the Steep and Flat Holms in the Channel, and then surrounded the South Wales coal basin. The uplift of the Mendip range had not been a slow one, as suggested by Sir William Guise, but very much more sudden than he supposed. That uplift had affected the old red sandstone, the carboniferous limestone, and the whole of the coal measures. Probably Mr. Mc Murtrie would tell them on the following evening that the coal measures alone of this county were some 12,000 feet in thickness, and when they considered that fact, and that the carboniferous limestone had had not only 25,000 feet of stratified beds brought out of their horizontal position into one nearly vertical, but also a very considerable area turned over upon themselves, they would think that the force which caused it must have been a very powerful one; and they must remember, at the same time, that that force had not only been exerted over the district where they were assembled, but all the way to the west, fringing the whole of the South Wales coal basin. Whether that had been done at one time, or during a considerable period, it was difficult to say. The supposition was that the range of the Mendips, at least the geological formations of which the Mendips were composed, passed under the south-eastern counties, and under the channel, to the south of France,

where the carboniferous limestone was repeated and where coal was worked. And it was in consequence of this that the boring operations in Sussex had been carried on to test the presence of coal in the palæozoic rocks below. The borings had gone down some 1670 feet, and though the palæozoic beds had not been reached, something would result from the operations. It was a very peculiar feature, whether the Mendip range passed in that direction or not, that there was a great covering of secondary beds, and to the surprise of everybody connected with that boring, the Kimmeridge clay, which occurred in our neighbourhood, was found to be upwards of a thousand feet in thickness; this had teased the committee very much, having unexpectedly to deal with such an enormous amount of secondary beds as he had mentioned. One reason why he thought the elevation of the Mendip Hills was sudden was the force with which the outlying beds were displaced. Not only were the beds brought up vertically and left standing on their edges, but they had been turned over and inverted. They had an outlying patch of limestone in the neighbourhood of Vobster, three-quarters of a mile in length, carried away from its parent rock and the overlying coal measures, to a mile or a mile and half from its original position. The force that could have elevated and crumpled up so great a thickness of stratified deposits and carried the whole country bodily with it to the north, must have been very great indeed. Although it was clear that volcanic action alone could account for the physical conditions above mentioned, until lately no visible trace of volcanic rocks had been discovered. It was then his good fortune to discover immediately under the turf at East Lane, a black rock different to anything that had been observed in the neighbourhood, and which turned out to be trap rock. An examination of the Mendips had led to this discovery, that in the immediate neighbourhood of Downend, close by Tadhill, occupying to a considerable extent the northern side of the Mendips, there was a great basaltic dyke, extending three miles in length. It was seen again on the road leading from

Stoke Lane, and on the map before them he had laid down its position coming up through the old red sandstone and the carboniferous limestone north and south. They had seen that day in the sections visited, some of very great interest. He was led to the examination of that district by a very curious accident. He was going along the road to Wanstrow, and on one of the heaps of blue carboniferous limestone by the side of the road he saw a piece of yellow rock which looked altogether different from the other portion of the heaps. He drew up, and on looking at it, and cracking it with his hammer—which was his constant companion,—he found to his surprise fish teeth and bones. He at once saw that those remains belonged to a bed which came in at the bottom of the lias, termed the Rhætic beds, in consequence of having large developements in the Rhenish Alps. It was a surprise to him to find that stone in this neighbourhood, because he was not conscious of the beds being within twenty miles of the spot where he found it, and he rather suspected that at some point or other, in one of the quarries, that this bed came in on the edges of the upturned limestone. As soon as he could he examined the whole of the district, without success ; but not very long afterwards he happened to be in the neighbourhood of Holwell, when he saw a vein of yellow limestone going down one of the quarries. On examining it he found that it was from that spot had been dug the stone of which he was in search, and to his surprise he found Rhætic organic remains caught up in the carboniferous limestone. He should mention to them, as he did at Vallis in the afternoon, that those teeth and bones were millions of years younger than the stone in which they were caught up on each side. The representatives of those special remains, and the beds in which they were found, were met with only in a thin band of stone at the bottom of the lias. Where the Rhætic beds were opened there were frequently found beds two or three inches in thickness made up of the teeth of fish and fragmentary bones. If they went to Watchet they would find it there; if

they went through Somersetshire they would find it; and if they went into the Midland counties, where the lias was seen, they would also find it. In the north of England it occupied the same position; likewise in France and Germany, this thin band of stone, made up of fragments and teeth of fish, would be found in the same position, and he had lately been informed that it was present under similar conditions in New Zealand. It was this that the stone at Wanstrow represented. When examining that district it was a long time before he could read it, for it was a great puzzle. In looking over Holwell quarry he found, instead of it being all carboniferous limestone, a vein of the liassic age; then a little patch of limestone, containing remains of the Rhætic age and also liassic; then a little limestone, and another infilling; and so it went on, the infillings usually thickening as they went down. Low down in the bottom of the quarry he found a nest of shells, and he was enabled to cut out of a block of carboniferous limestone as big as his hand five or six different genera of liassic shells. It was not very long before he had exhausted the stone of its fish remains, but soon after he found another place in which there was a reddish or yellowish deposit of marl which had gone down one of those cracks. He found that it contained some remains, and that he could get them out in immense numbers. He thought that if he could get the material home he should be able to do so more carefully, so he went to a farmer and asked for what sum he would remove it to his house. He replied that he (Mr. Moore) could get better gravel nearer home, and he said he could, but that he wanted that. A bargain was struck, and for 55s. he had removed to his house, and placed in the cellar, three tons of the infilling. On that he worked for nearly three years, and obtained from it more than a million fossils, every one of which he had picked out separately. He had with him at that moment 70,000 teeth of one kind of fish alone, found in three square yards of earth. So they might fancy the great amount of interest which was attached to those

peculiar infillings. In the same drift from which these specimens came he found the teeth of the oldest quadruped and the oldest mammal that, as far as they knew, ever walked on this earth—the little kangaroo, the *Microlestes*, to which reference was made in the afternoon. Only one specimen was known before, and he was lucky enough to find 27 of those in the three yards of stuff at Holwell. The little kangaroo must have been very abundant in order to enable him to find so many in so small a space. He had prepared figures of the different forms of remains he had found with them. They included scutes of a reptile new to this country, with a covering like a crocodile, and teeth, jaws, and vertebræ of various fishes—fourteen or fifteen genera of fish and eight or nine of reptiles. The question came to his mind, how did they get such a peculiar mixture of organisms in those fissures. They had that afternoon a discussion about the planing down of the carboniferous limestone. His belief was—and they must give great latitude to geological time—that the carboniferous limestone formed the bottom of the sea during a very long period, indeed, certainly during the time when those Rhætic remains were being deposited. At that time the limestone became disturbed and fissured, and the remains of a Rhætic sea were carried down and helped to fill up the fissures which were then made. Again, there was a later movement of the limestone, and liassic organic remains were then carried down. It was a fact that the Mendips were so cut up with fissures, east and west, and cross courses passing through them, that, in order to represent the character of the beds in the Mendips, instead of putting them as plain carboniferous limestone, they ought to show long lines of Rhætic beds, and lias intersecting them in every direction. The veins, such as they were, were true mineral veins, and the filling up of some of them had occupied a very considerable time. When a vein was opened it was not filled all at once. If they had a vein two feet wide, carbonate of lime would be formed on each side, then a band of some other material came in—if a lead vein, a thin

deposit of lead, or if an iron vein, a deposit of hematite iron ore. These separate vertical bands filling and occupying these fissures, represented a special and long period of time, during which those thin layers were deposited. They would get that kind of thing in the veins of this neighbourhood, and in the centre of them all find beds as young as the middle lias going down and filling up the whole of the veins themselves. Another very curious feature of this neighbourhood was this. He believed that the whole of the minerals, whether lead or iron, were as young as the above periods, and did not belong to the carboniferous limestone itself. A fissure which had been caused in an old rock must be filled up by some younger material, and it was so in every instance in this neighbourhood, whether lead, sulphate of barytes, or iron, or with material of the secondary age, millions of years younger than the rock on either side. One curious thing he met with on the Mendips at Charterhouse. At a spot where an old mine had been abandoned he found blue clay, identical with the lias and belonging to the liassic age. He was told that it came from the bottom of the mine, but he could not believe it, as it was so much younger than the surrounding strata. The captain of the mine told him that they left off working in the blue clay, and he (Mr. Moore) had the mine uncovered to prove it. He found it difficult to descend the mine by means of ladders, but he safely reached the bottom, where he found that the vein had been filled up in the way he had stated, and discovered 150 species of liassic shells, found on the top of the Mendips carried down nearly three hundred feet in a carboniferous limestone fissure. Mr. Moore concluded by stating that in this district, and the neighbourhood of Frome especially, as much interest can be found geologically as in any other part of the world.

Mr. TAIT handed in a note on the subject of Mr. Moore's paper, but unfortunately the hour was so late that the President was not able to arrange that it should be read. The substance of it was that according to Mr. Moore's theory concerning the

age of the stratum under consideration, it was necessary to suppose an unconformability between the middle and upper lias to explain the phenomenon required by his supposition. Mr. Tait considers that the stratum of clay which intervenes between the so-called marlstone and the inferior oolite of the Radstock district, which is estimated by Mr. Moore at 50 feet in the Tunley bank, and which is said by him to belong to the upper lias, really forms part of the middle lias. Only a day or so before Mr. Tait had gathered near Wellow, on the line of railway towards Radstock, most decided fossil evidence as to the age of the stratum. The section displayed inferior oolite resting on about 20 feet of a bluish sandy clay, with small clay stones and a few fossils for the most part fragmentary but determinable. The fossils put in evidence were Belemnites, s. p., Monotis inequivalvis, Pecten priscus, Plicatula spinosa, Pentacrinus scalaris, and some others, the midliassic age of which cannot be doubted. In the north of this district it was true that the upper lias existed below the inferior oolite, but there the succession of the middle and upper liassic strata was complete, for there the marlstone was the highest stratum of the middle lias, and was not coterminous with that of Radstock. He stated that in passing south from Bath the upper lias was truncated; then the higher marlstone disappeared, and thus the inferior oolite finally rested on the subjacent clay bed, which overlies the marlstone of Radstock. So then there was no necessity for calling in the aid of an unconformability between the middle and upper lias.

Mr. SANFORD said that, though no one could possibly dispute the value of Mr. Moore's palaeontological researches, he dissented from his views of the physical phenomena, which caused the denudation of the older rocks. The upheaval and denudation of the Mendips must be taken in connexion with a similar upheaval and crumpling, and with a similar planing down of rocks of a like age which had taken place throughout the southwest of England, and particularly in the country between

Dartmoor and Exmoor, where the rocks were crumpled like sheets of paper squeezed together in the hand, and were planed off again by some agent similar to that which had planed the Mendips. He stated that the hollows of these rocks were filled with aqueous deposits of similar age ; that the earliest of these secondary deposits were of Triassic age, that there were no rocks of Permian age west of the Mendips, and that there was consequently the enormous Permian age to be accounted for. He stated that subaqueal deposits, except coal, were rare, and that submarine denudation was altogether unknown and inconceivable. Hence he argued that the great upheaval and denudation of the whole district took place during the Permian period : that the upheaval would have probably produced mountains of enormous height, which would have furnished an agent quite powerful enough to have effected the denudation, viz., glaciers of immense length and thickness. He suggested that search should be made beneath the Triassic and Rhætic beds for ice scratches, which might in some cases be still preserved. If any such were found it would go far to settle the question.

Excursion : Wednesday.

A large number started from the George at 10 a.m. for the Excursion. The road taken led over Innox hill, from which there was a beautiful view of the town, and then entered Orchardleigh Park, formerly the seat of the Champneys family, where a new house has been built by the present owner, Sir Wm. Duckworth. A halt was made on Murtry hill to examine the Cromlech. The Society visited these stones on July 11th, 1850 (Vol. I. part i. p. 40), but they do not seem to have been looked upon with the attention which they most certainly deserve. On this occasion the Society was fortunate in the presence of one of its members, the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, the Secretary of the Cambrian Archæological Association, one of the

most judicious and learned authorities on primeval monuments. The substance of Mr. BARNWELL's explanation, which he has prepared for the Society, is as follows :—

Orchardleigh Stones.

Although these primitive remains are unusually (even for this class of remains) scanty and imperfect, yet they are by no means unimportant or devoid of interest. Of their real character there can be little doubt, and they are rightly described in the Ordnance Map as what is popularly known as a Cromlech. It may not, indeed, in the present instance be easy to present a complete restoration of the original structure without a considerable amount of conjecture : an element in such matters to be handled with caution, and not used, as lately has been the case in a well known instance, with unqualified audacity, as if mere guess work and undoubted facts were one and the same thing. The character however of these stones is so patent to every one who has had the opportunity of examining similar ones, that it is unnecessary to dwell on a modern tradition that these stones are not ancient at all, but were erected by a former owner of the estate for some curious reason ; but if report speaks truly, that gentleman was the most unlikely of men to have thus amused himself by setting a trap for unwary antiquaries or for his private amusement. But another and a genuine local tradition exists which annihilates the one alluded to, for the natives of the district to this day have a dread of passing near the stones except in broad daylight, as if there were still remaining the notion that they marked a place of burial, or perhaps of Pagan rites, in which Satan may have taken an active part. Such traditions are not uncommon both in these islands and France, although they vary in details. Among them is the one connected with remarkable line of tall stones near Fishguard, marked on the Ordnance Map as *Parc-y Marw*, or *field of the dead*, to avoid which the peasants after night all make an enormous detour to the left as one goes towards Newport. This

circuitous route was formerly on the open heath, long since enclosed, but stiles have been placed probably to prevent persons making gaps through the fences. This deviating path is now the regular pathway used after nightfall, for in the day time there does not appear to be the same dread of passing near the stones. The story of the Lady in White haunting these mysterious relics, although firmly believed, may be a comparatively late addition to the earlier superstition. To find something of the same feeling in Somersetshire in connexion with a similar memorial, as in the present instance, is not devoid of interest; for that the Orchardleigh stones are connected with a burial place may be assumed as a fact, or if not exactly an established fact, it is a conclusion arrived at both from analogy and common reason. The original work in its complete state consisted of a large mound, the base of which, but at some short distance, was surrounded by a circular bank of earth. Between this and the base of the mound is a small stone, not of the same kind as the larger ones, of oolite, and as in many instances graves were surrounded by circles of stones placed at regular intervals, the stone in question may be one of these, and the last survivor of the ring. Whether others exist beneath the ground might be ascertained by probing with an iron bar, as such a mode of disposing of such stones by burial was sometimes thought easier than by carting away or breaking up. In ordinary cases the grave proper is found on or near the original level in the centre of the mound. In the present instance it is a little on one side. Whether there was a second and more central chamber cannot now be ascertained, but as there are many instances of two, three, or even more, such chambers under one tumulus, there is no reason why this also may not be an instance of the kind. In the cases of urns, or other similar interments of a smaller class, the finding of them under the shoulder of the tumulus is not uncommon. A mound of the size required in this case could not be heaped up without much labour, and therefore would be utilised by secondary and subsequent inter-

ments, and in many cases the original mound is added to from time to time, thus forming the long barrows not uncommon in the adjoining county of Wilts.

The remains of this chamber have been so mutilated and ill-treated that the exact dimensions and position cannot be satisfactorily made out. The large upright stone is evidently a part of, or one side of it; the smaller stone leaning against it has been broken. In its complete state it may have formed the opposite side, but the whole arrangement is very uncertain. Nor is it a matter of much consequence. All that is important to establish is that the present stones have formed part of an original chamber, and have been covered over by a mound.

Prebendary Clutterbuck, the vicar of the parish, stated that after digging at the foot of the larger stone, to a distance equal to its height above the ground, the labourers were unable to reach to the bottom of it, so that the actual length of it is not known, nor is it worth ascertaining at the risk of overthrowing it. The sinking such stones so deeply into the ground was not done without reason, for as they had to bear a ponderous capstone or cover, as well as the superincumbent earth or stones, of which the enveloping mound was composed, it was of the utmost importance that their perpendicular position should be preserved, as under such great pressure any inclination of them would probably become fatal to the chamber. And it should be remembered that the capstones also are necessarily enormously massive to enable them to bear the weight of the artificial mountain resting on them, so that extra pressure is thus exerted on the supporters, which would give way unless the stones retained their vertical position. Hence we have an indirect argument in the deep sinking of the supporters that every chamber without exception was once buried beneath a tumulus. It is true that many now exposed and dilapidated stones have not the least trace of any covering material near them, and are sometimes found on bleak rocky ground where at the present time neither soil or small stones exist ; and hence

some have doubted in such cases whether there ever had been a tumulus, especially if the remains are of any height and size. But whatever some may think of the difficulty of heaping up such artificial mounds, the simple answer is that there are several still existing after the lapse of centuries which could cover at once half a dozen of the largest cromlechs in these islands. As to the want of the necessary material being any objection, it may be replied that centuries ago what is now barren heath may not always have been so, and, even if it had been, what was required could be brought to the spot, especially when there was no want of the necessary hands. The well-known *Tumiac* mound, opposite Locmariaker in the Morbihan, said to be the largest in Britany, has partly been constructed of layers of sea-sand, placed at intervals, which sand could only have been brought up from the sea shore below with immense labour. Plenty of other suitable material was available on or near the spot, but for some unknown reason these bands of sand were added. It is clear then that the usual arguments against the universal use of mounds over chambers are of little value. Of late indeed a new fact has been discovered by the well-known Mr. James Fergusson, D.C.L., namely that the constructors of the larger megalithic monuments built them to show future ages how clever and strong they were, and therefore could not have intended them to be covered up. But the statement is based on mere assumption of the most gratuitous kind, unsupported by fact or tradition, or even common sense. It does not therefore require any further notice than to state that it proves how pressed the upholders of the theory of free-standing cromlechs (or cromlechs never covered up or intended to be covered up) must be to bring it forward.

The most interesting feature of the Orchardleigh monument is the earthen bank which encircles it. Many instances of mounds surrounded with a low ditch are found, but the raised bank is much more rare. Originally the latter may have been more numerous, and have since been levelled and the soil

spread over the ground, if suitable for the land. The well-known example of Maybrough, near Penrith, has an encircling wall of loose stones, strong enough to form a defensive work, but within the circle is a single upright stone, one of the so-called Druidical stones. It may have been used in after times as a defensive work, but it seems to be of the same kind of monument of which Abury is the grandest example, for it is certain that its huge circular bank was not for defensive purposes. In this large circle there was probably more than one mound, covering stone chambers, each surrounded by its own circle of stones. There are of course other details in Abury, which may be considered additions or rather adjuncts, such as the lining the inner edge of the mound with pillar stones, and the diverging avenues. But these do not necessarily alter the character of the original work, which may be described simply as a large circular space containing various burial places, all surrounded with the enormous bank of chalk still perfect except in one part. On a much more humble scale, the Orchardleigh monument seems to be of a similar nature, the earthen bank enclosing two chambers, one more central—now no more—and the other on one side, both probably once being covered by the same mound. Relics of this class and time are rare in the county, which however possesses one of interest hardly inferior to that attached to Abury and Stonehenge, and which we trust is safer from the destroyer than Abury itself was a few months ago. The Orchardleigh stones are at present in safe hands, but the time may come when the improving landlord or his tenant may, for the sake of the little additional space, sweep it away. It is the more important therefore that a faithful record and illustration of it as it is, its dimensions and arrangement, should be carefully prepared and committed to the pages of the Journal of the Society, where at least it will be spared for the information of future generations.

A discussion then took place as to the geological nature of the stones. Rev. H. H. WINWOOD stated that the two upright ones were inferior oolite, and the third a piece of millstone grit

found in the immediate locality. Soon after leaving the Park the pretty village of

Lullington

was reached, and a long halt was made at the church. A paper on this interesting building, by Rev. D. M. Clerk, with a lithograph of the interior, will be found in the Society's Journal, Vol. II. pt. ii. p. 86. It consists of a nave without aisles, a square and rather heavy central tower with an octagonal staircase turret, a chancel, and on the south side of the nave a large transept and porch. On the north side of the nave is a Norman doorway, with twisted columns, surmounted by capitals, on which are carved the figures of animals. Within the crown of the arch are two animals on either side of a cross, and above is a figure of the Lord sitting as Judge of the World.

Mr. E. A. FREEMAN said that the outline of the church was most singular. The transept-like building was, he should think, bigger at one time than the nave. He remembered that there was a somewhat similar projection in St. Giles's Church, Northampton, but it was altogether different in outline from this. The church was built originally without aisle or transept, and this great projection had been added in the first half of the fourteenth century, as a chapel. The tower was Perpendicular, but it had something of the lowness and massiveness of the original Norman building. He had heard it suggested that the Norman church had an apse, but, as there was no certain rule, the question could not be decided without digging. As regards the interior, Mr. Freeman said that it would require a very minute examination to make even a guess at the different pranks which had been played with the tower arches. It was evident that, when the present tower was built, the Norman arches were tampered with, and brought into their present shape. He was glad to see the choir in its proper place under the tower between the nave and chancel.

Mr. J. H. PARKER, C.B., said that the church was transitional Norman, with a chantry chapel of the time of Edward II

added to it, in the form of a transept. The building had been carefully restored, but he must protest against the folly of encouraging ivy to grow over the walls, and thus for the sake of a present picturesque effect probably endangering the safety of the building in the future. The carved stone in the churchyard wall belonged to the eleventh century, and that in the vestry to the twelfth. He drew attention to the rich Norman font with its inscription—

HOC FONTIS SACRO PEREVNT DELICTA LAVACRO.

No one present was able to make out the remains of the other inscription, upon the edge. From Lullington the party drove to

Norton S. Philip,

and drew up at the famous George Inn.

Mr. PARKER said that, though the Society had visited this house before, they were doing rightly in coming again, as many who were present at their first visit had passed away, and those who now came for the second time would probably be able to understand the building better than when they had been there for the first time. He pointed out the gables and chimneys, and said that it was a remarkably fine house of the kind, and that there was no doubt but that it was built early in the fifteenth century.

Rev. W. HUNT said that in Murray's *Handbook* it was stated that the house was formerly the grange of the Prior of Hinton.

Mr. DAVIS said that he believed the house had always been an inn, and in confirmation of his view pointed out a corbel by the door, which he believed to have been placed there to support the sign. Norton was always a great place for wool, and a wool market is said to have been held in the house.

Rev. W. HUNT thought that the two stories might be connected. It was certain that Philip S. Norton belonged to the Carthusians of Hinton Priory, and that in the time of Edward I the market and wool fair of Norton belonged to the Prior, as well as the patronage of the church and other rights : that it was not unlikely that the George Inn was also the property of the Priory, and that, though used as an hostelry, the large upper

room might also have been used for the purposes of the wool trade of the Priory.

Mr. WALTERS said that it was here that the Duke of Monmouth slept on the night of June 26, 1685 ; that the next day the rebel troops got the better of the royalist advanced guard in a cavalry skirmish, and were able in consequence to make their entrance into Frome ; that, it was said, in hopes of the reward offered for the life of the Duke, a man fired at him as he stood at a window of this house, on which, according to a ballad, the Duke

“ gently turned him round

And said, “ My man you’ve missed your mark
And lost your thousand pound.”

The Church is dedicated to S. Philip and S. James.

Mr. FREEMAN described the tower as one of the most irregular he had ever seen—one that some man had devised out of his own head without reference to any other tower. It was not at all of any Somersetshire type, nor of any other type that he was used to in any part of England. The only point which it seemed to have in common with any class of towers was the staircase turret, and that it shared with the Bristol type of western towers. Let them look at the tower, from the bottom to the top, and see how different it was. If they took the best of the western towers, they would see that there was a steady growth of ornament and lightness from the base to the summit, but the ornament in this tower was scattered about, and the lower stage was much richer than the upper ; there were panelling and niches down to the very bottom, while the battlements were quite plain. The arrangement of the church was eccentric from beginning to end. In the inside there was nothing that could be called a regular arcade. There were undoubtedly three arches on one side ; on the north side there were two that agreed and one that did not. The two that did agree were at both ends with one of another character between them. They were mere pieces of masonry, and the walls must

have been cut through in a strange fashion. In the arcade of the nave was a panelled arch without any shafts, of a kind not uncommonly used between a chapel and a chancel. Here was a case where local records would be of use, in showing the changes which had taken place. If they could ascertain that there had been a series of chapels they might understand what had been done. The best feature of the church was the tower arch, but it appeared too tall for the remainder of the church. The building would look better if there was a clerestory. He pointed out that there were two squints. As to the roof, he said it made him sigh and groan to find the very best features of English, and the special features of West-country architecture done away with.

Mr. PARKER said it appeared to him that chapels had been added to the church, and afterwards turned into aisles. He asked whether there had been a clerestory.

Mr. FREEMAN replied that he saw no signs of it.

A visit was then made to the dovecote of the Manor House. It is a square building of the Elizabethan era, and is in fine preservation. It is entered by a low door, and has one small window. The walls are pierced inside with a great quantity of square holes, for the nests of the pigeons.

Fayleigh Hungerford

was the next place visited. A full description of the Castle by Rev. Canon Jackson, with plans, will be found in the Society's Journal, Vol. III. pt. ii. p. 114. A luncheon was provided in the grounds by the kindness of some gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and afterwards

Mr. PARKER led the party over the site of the former buildings. His description did not differ in any material point from that given by Canon Jackson. He said that the chapel was remodelled in the time of Henry VIII. The walls are covered with a medley of arms and armour of different dates and nations.

Mr. KING pointed out a suit of chain mail as of Eastern make;

and a doublet of heavier links, which hung close by, was, he said, of English make of the thirteenth century.

Mr. HUTCHINGS said that the carving of the reredos was certainly not genuine, and looked suspiciously like part of an old bedstead.

The Parish Church is dedicated to S. Leonard, and was built by Sir Walter Hungerford in 1443. The only remarkable thing about it is an inscribed stone over the south porch, which was doubtless once the tympanum of a Norman doorway. It bears the inscription—

“Muniat hoc templum cruce glorificans microcosmum
Quæ genuit Christum miseris prece fiat asylum.”

Beckington Church

was the next halting place, and was commented on by Mr. FREEMAN. He said that before the Perpendicular people began to pull the tower about, it must have been a remarkably good specimen of Norman work. Inside the tower could be seen two Norman windows completely blocked up, one of them by a strange buttress; the belfry window was very fine. It was to be noted that this church had a clerestory, and at the same time high pitched roofs to the aisles—a most unusual thing. Inside the church, Mr. Freeman said that there the original character of the building could be easily seen. There was the lean-to of the original roof, which spoke for itself. The church was evidently at one time much smaller, and had no aisles. It had been rebuilt in Perpendicular times on a good deal larger scale. The herring-bone masonry was a bit of the old Norman church. He must make a protest against the barbarous custom of scraping off the plaster from the inside of the walls of churches, and thus leaving them as bare inside as they were outside. The church in which they stood was an example of the mischief which this senseless custom did: the effect of the inside was thoroughly spoiled by the appearance of the bare rubble walls. If the interior were finished with fine ashlar it would be reasonable enough to have it uncovered, but there was

no sort of reason for scraping off the plaster from rubble walls, and so exposing the rudeness of the material, and making the church look as if it were turned inside out. The old custom was to cover rough walls inside with plaster, and the sooner modern architects condescended to return to the old paths the better. It was said that Richard the Fearless when he built a certain church painted it inside with histories, it would be difficult to do that here. Before ending his remarks he must ask people to remember that one of the foremost of the Somersetshire worthies, Bishop Beckington, took his name from this place.

Mr. PARKER expressed his entire agreement with what Mr. Freeman had said about stripping off the plaster from the inside of churches. He asked those present to observe the roof, which he considered singularly good.

Mr. TALBOT said that from what appeared on the walls he could not but think that at one time the roof timbers sprung quite low down just above the capitals of the pillars.

Mr. PARKER said that that was probably the case before the clerestory was put in.

Rev. S. L. SAINSBURY, the rector, kindly entertained the company on the rectory lawn. Before leaving some of the party visited two of the old houses, in which the village is rich. One, occupied by Mr. Meade King, was not only well worth a longer visit from its architectural beauty, but also as containing a rich collection of objects of art, majolica ware and such like, which came from Italy, many of them having formerly belonged to religious houses, and having been sold at their suppression.

After the dinner at the George Hotel an

Evening Meeting

was again held and was well attended.

On the motion of the HON. SECRETARY, the word "shall" in Rule XVII. was altered to "may." Mr. Hunt then announced that he had that day received a telegram from his colleague,

Mr. Malet, that Mr. H. Gore Langton had most liberally given £50 to the Castle Purchase Fund ; and a vote was passed that Mr. Gore Langton and Mr. H. Danby Seymour should be added to the present Trustees.

Mr. KING then gave a short and interesting account of the day's Excursion.

The PRESIDENT said that the stones at Orchardleigh had often been made the subject of discussion. He had heard it said indeed that they were placed in the Park not many years ago by Sir T. Champneys, but, though he had had this from those who were certainly likely to know, he was quite willing to believe it a myth, now that it had been contradicted by such an eminent authority. He hoped and trusted that Mr. Barnwell would convince him that the stones were Druidical remains, so that the inhabitants of those parts might no longer be in doubt.

Mr. BARNWELL hoped to convince his lordship that the stones were not Druidical, but were placed in their present position at a far earlier time than that in which Druids are said to have lived. As to their erection by Sir Thomas Champneys, he was the least likely man he knew of to do such a thing. Mr. Barnwell then repeated for the benefit of those who had not been present at Orchardleigh that morning some of the arguments on which he based his belief that the stones were the remains of a primeval monument.

The PRESIDENT then called on Mr. Mc Murtrie, who read a valuable paper on "The Physical Geology of the Carboniferous Strata of Somersetshire and Associated Formations," which will be found in Part II.

Mr. SANFORD, who remarked that they could not do less than congratulate the county on the good account given of its coal-field, said the paper was an admirable one. There was one thing in it, however, to which he took exception. Mr. Mc Murtrie made use of the words "washed away." He (Mr. Sanford) had previously spoken of ice. He believed that Professor Ramsay had expressed an opinion that the Permian period was clearly

an ice era. As he said on the preceding night, the country had been raised up in great ridges, and in such a latitude as this those mountains could not exist without forming glaciers which cut and planed down mountain ranges in a manner that must be seen to be believed. He did not think that the Permian period, long as it was, would have been long enough for the rocks to have been washed away. A greater power than water would be required, that power he believed was moving ice.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD referred to the paper which had just been read as the result of much patient labour. He remembered that Sir W. Guise on the previous day had stated that the Mendips were the consequence of a slow upheaval, that Mr. Moore expressed an opinion that it was a sudden movement, and that Mr. Mc Murtrie now referred to it as gradual. Had the Society gone to Mells they would have seen some of the results of this denudation in the conglomerate so well exposed there, which is nothing but the old water beach of that period.

Rev. W. HUNT said that the reason the Society did not visit Mells was the absence of Mr. Horner.

Mr. MC MURTRIE said objection had been taken to the words "washed away." They might be supplemented by another. The rock might have been "ground" first and washed away afterwards. He thought that water would not be sufficient of itself, and that if they could see evidence of the ice action it would be a proof. What they were in want of at present was proof of the ice action.

Mr. SANFORD hoped that the paper would be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society, and also the diagrams.

Dr. PARSONS then read an interesting paper on "The Flora of Eastern Somersetshire," which is printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Parsons for his paper, and had no doubt but that it would lead some who heard it to take a new interest in their walks abroad. His Lordship then called on Mr. Elworthy to read a paper on "The Dialect of West Somerset."

MR. ELWORTHY said that at this late hour in the evening he would not inflict a long paper on the audience, but, with his Lordship's permission, would put off the reading of it to a more convenient season.

It was then announced that Mr. Elworthy's paper should be read the next day. It is much to be regretted that time was not found for this arrangement to be carried out, but Mr. Elworthy has kindly consented to read his paper at a future meeting of the Society.

Excursion : Thursday.

The number of visitors was so largely and unexpectedly increased that considerable difficulty was experienced in providing enough carriages, and in getting the party off.

For the future all those who wish to make use of the carriages, provided by the Secretary in charge of the Excursion, should purchase their tickets before 6 p.m. on the day before, so that he may know how many will want seats. Those who kindly comply with this request will be held to have a prior claim, and although the Secretary will try to accommodate all who may want seats, yet he will not be responsible for the accommodation of those who have not given this notice of their intention.

The route lay through Blatchbridge and Woodlands to

Longleat House,

which was reached after a most lovely drive through the Park. The Marquis of Bath received the party with a kind welcome, and himself led the visitors through the corridors and lower library. The party then assembled in the hall, and Canon JACKSON read a valuable paper on

The Literary Treasures of Longleat,

of which the following is the substance :—

He said that some time ago he had been invited by the Society's Secretary to contribute something for the Frome

meeting, and that a text was given him on which to write. That text was a perplexing one, for it was "The Literary Treasures of Longleat." How could he treat it without either wearying the audience, or unduly compressing matter which ought to fill at least a volume. Those treasures are, he said, of two kinds, printed books and manuscripts. The printed treasures of Longleat fill two very large rooms : that which is called the lower or modern library on the ground floor; and the upper or old library at the top of the house. The lower library contains a very fine collection of books, all arranged and catalogued, formed chiefly by the grandfather of the present owner of the house. There are Greek and Latin classical authors of superb editions ; also many of our rarest county histories, the four first folios of Shakespeare, and a great number of those little thin 4to. volumes much sought after by book-lovers of all species. For there are many species of book-lovers : some like books for the old title pages, some for the black letter, some for the illustrations, some for the bindings, and now and then a few for the contents. For every one of these book-lovers there is abundance of interesting matter in the lower library—Caxton's "Wynkyn de Worde" Chaucer, as edited by William Thynne, and so forth. After mentioning some other rare books the learned Canon said that he would pass to the old library, which, among many books of modern date placed there for convenience, also contained a vast collection which belonged to the library in the time of the first Lord Weymouth, and which were chiefly collected by him. They were on different subjects, but especially on the controversial divinity of the latter part of the seventeenth century. The first Lord Weymouth was the friend and protector of Bishop Ken, and they seem to have entered together into those religious questions which agitated the country, and to have gathered together all the publications which related to them. It is, the Canon said, not an uncommon notion among the public that all the books in the old library were Bishop Ken's ; and the room is often enquired for as "Bishop Ken's

Library." This is not so. The room itself, without any manner of doubt, belonged to Lord Weymouth, and so did the books. But the Bishop by his will bequeathed to Lord Weymouth, out of his own collection, such works as his lordship might not have already, and such others as he might choose. The room was no doubt very much the daily living place of the good Bishop ; but neither room nor library was his own, further than in the way I have mentioned. There is also a large collection of Civil War tracts, and a great number of old geographical works of voyages and travels descriptive of the world as then known. Also many valuable works on antiquities, coins, and the like, such as are now seldom met with in private houses ; fine and costly volumes, the like of which indeed are seldom printed in our days. I must not omit to mention that the room I am speaking of, the old library upstairs, is indebted for its contents not only to Lord Weymouth and Bishop Ken. At the further end of it, occupying the entire wall, is a very wonderful collection of publications, all upon one single subject, but that a subject of never-ceasing interest—the great French Revolution of 1792. The collection embraces, I believe, almost everything that was published in France during that terrible period of the history of France ; and it includes all books, pamphlets, and narratives published not only in Paris itself, but in all the provincial cities and towns ; describing all the horrors that took place over the whole country. Whether quite unique or nor I cannot say, but this collection is certainly a very remarkable and valuable one, and was added to the literary treasures of the house by the present owner. Taking this old library of Longleat altogether, it is, both from its mere construction as well as its interesting contents, one of the most curious rooms to be seen in any house in England. The reader then passed to the manuscript treasures and remarked upon the special charm which attached to a treasure of this kind in comparison with the value of printed books. Of the collection of MSS. in the old library it was impossible to give anything but a mere outline. Amongst

them were named “The Bible” in English after the translation usually ascribed to Wicliff, a large folio, 398 pp., pure vellum, beautifully written and adorned with illuminated initial letters, containing the Old and New Testaments complete, and the prefatory epistle of S. Jerome. Another noble volume comprised the works of Zacharias Chrysopalos, of the twelfth century. Next is a “Liber Pontificalis” of 13th century, containing the forms of certain services used in consecrations of churches and cemeteries, in the office of matrimony, benediction of rings, appointment of abbesses, and the like. “The Life of Christ,” by Bonaventure, Bishop of Albania and Cardinal, translated into English by John Morton ; 15th century. “A Sermon that S. Austin made on Christmas Day.” This is a very curious old document, in the quaintest English possible, and intended as the preface says, “for folk of simple understanding : children that haven nede to be fedde with mylke of light doctrine, and not with sad meat of great clergy and high contemplacion.” The spelling of the words are very curious. The teaching of S. John, it says, was given as “treacle” against the venom of dyverse heretykes ; and instead of being called the Redeemer our Lord is spoken of as the “Buyer-again.” There is also a volume of old English religious poems of the 15th century, some of which are very simple and touching, and, so far as I know, have never been printed. There should also be mentioned Lydgate’s “Life of the Virgin Mary,” a MS. of the 15th century, afterwards printed by Caxton. Amongst a different class of subjects, relating to monastic establishments, may be named “Privileges of the Sanctuary of S. Peter of Westminster,” an interesting MS. volume of the 15th century. Prefixed to it is a charter of King Edgar, by which he ordains that the Church of S. Peter at Westminster shall become a sanctuary for fugitives of every degree ; and other charters of Edward the Confessor and William I confirming the privileges. There are many registers of various abbeys, and amongst them one of Glastonbury, of the 14th

century, a fine folio of 440 pages in vellum. Prefixed to it is a Bull of Pope John XXI, addressed to Adam, Abbot of the monastery, according permission for his confessor to forgive the sins of the said Abbot when in *articulo mortis*, like as the Roman pontiffs were accustomed to do. This is dated at Avignon. Then follow the prefatory matters appointed by Edward I to be prefixed to all monastic chartularies, having relation to his right to a feudal superiority over Scotland. There are six in number :—1. The Genealogy of the Kings of England, beginning with Adam down to Edward III. 2. Concerning the origin of Giants in the Island of Albion. 3. Of the length and breadth of England. 4. A citatory letter of Pope Boniface for the Kingdom of Scotland. 5. A Declaration of the King of England about the affairs of Scotland. 6. A letter of the barons to Pope Boniface on behalf of the rights of the Kingdom of Scotland. The date of the last charter registered appears to be about 1361. At page 427 is a brief register of the muniments at Wells. Next comes a very curious old book, commonly called “Liber Ruber Bathoniæ,” or “The Red Book of Bath.” Why it is called a red book is not very intelligible, because it is bound in white pigskin on thick wood, with brass bosses upon the sides. Inside of the upper cover is a square hole or socket let into the wood and nearly the size of the cover itself, secured with a door of thin iron plate covered with leather and studded with brass nails. In this were formerly kept the balances for weighing gold, as appears by the first entry in the catalogue of contents. It once belonged to the monastery at Bath, and came into the hands of Dr. Thomas Guidot, who, dying in 1703, bequeathed it to the first Lord Weymouth. I had always expected to find in this old MS. a good deal about the history of Bath and its Abbey. But it is quite a different thing. It is a collection of most miscellaneous articles, about thirty in number. Its date is 1428. There are short treatises about weights and measures, the Gospels, calendars in rime, an essay on phlebotomy, the ringing (or rather beating) of bells

—“*pulsatio campanorum*”—showing how far that enlivening recreation is founded upon ecclesiastical law, and how far upon custom. Then come treatises on the office of coroner, a charter of the forest, the names of those who came over with William I, an assize of bread and beer, measurement of land with the acre-staff, and “The Gestes of King Arthur” in rime. This is a poem of 642 lines, and is so curious that it was printed as the first issue of the publications of the Early English Text Society. At intervals of 50 or 60 verses the reader is desired by the quaint old poet to pause and say a Paternoster and Ave. At the end of the volume, in more modern writing, is an account of the placing of a pillory in the city of Bath, with a drawing of that instrument of publicity, dated 1412. There is an old rental of the bishopric of Hereford, and a book of expenses of Shaftesbury Abbey (24 Hen. VIII), of which Sir W. Uvedale, Kt., was Seneschal. In the class of historical works, the finest MS. is one of Josephus’ “Wars and Antiquities of the Jews.” This is a large and noble volume of the 15th century, in a clear hand in pure vellum. Another MS. is a curious volume (30 Hen. VIII) being a list of all the English residents in the town of Calais at that time, when it belonged to England; the names of the men, women, and children, strangers and inhabitants, scattered through the twelve wards of His Majesty’s town; with devices for its fortification, victualling, wages of workmen, &c. Then is a MS. copy of a very celebrated book called “Leicester’s Commonwealth,” being a virulent attack by Parsons the Jesuit (or some one else so called), upon the character and life of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. This was secretly circulated, but only in manuscript, for many years, as Queen Elizabeth and the Privy Council had published a protest against it as a slanderous story. A greater pack of lies against a very eminent man was never whipped up together, and unluckily Scott’s novel of Kenilworth, being built upon it, is not only full of the grossest historical errors, but has stamped Dudley’s name with a most unjust stigma, which perhaps may never be

effaced. There are also some volumes of very valuable original letters, which came from Sheffield Castle when it was dismantled. They are addressed to the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, to whom the Castle belonged, and are written by the great statesmen and others of Queen Elizabeth's time, including several from Her Majesty herself to the Earl. One begins "My dear old man." In one of these volumes are several letters from the unfortunate Lady Arabella Stuart, the first cousin of King James I. There is also in four large folio volumes a complete history of the Talbot family (Earls of Shrewsbury), compiled entirely out of the records at Sheffield Castle, the greater part of which are now deposited in the Herald's College, London. There are volumes of State Papers, ambassadors' correspondence, and the like. A great number also of curious treatises on alchymy, medicine, most curious receipts and antidotes, astronomical tables, leech-craft, and astrology ; treatises on the philosopher's stone—the secret of secrets—coinage ; and of ancient law treatises a very large collection, very difficult to read and still more difficult to understand ; also many records of Star Chamber proceedings, which are scarce and valuable. There are several volumes of very old English and French poetry in manuscript. A treatise on chivalry, called "Le Livre des Faiz d'Armes," by Christine of Pisa, an Italian lady of the the 15th century ; and another by the same authoress, called "Hector and Othea," translated into English by Stephen Scrope, of Castle Combe, in Wiltshire, son-in-law of Sir John Falstaff (not the fat knight of Shakespeare). "The Temple of Glasse," a poem commonly said to have been written by Chaucer, and included in his works. But it was not by him. It is now called "The Isle of Ladies." The Longleat copy is the only MS. of it known. Also several other MSS. of the poems of Chaucer and Lydgate. In one called "Ipomedon," by Lydgate, there is the written autograph (of great rarity) of Richard III when Duke of Gloucester, with a motto "Tant le désirée." I may just mention as a sample of the value of MSS., especially

when, as in this case, they happen to contain any rare autograph, that only a few weeks ago at an auction in London a little MS., which happened to have this very autograph signature in it, was sold for the marvellous sum of £331. Besides all the books and MSS. to which I have only very slightly referred there is a vast quantity of original documents at Longleat, which have been all arranged. They consist of what we may call personal documents and topographical documents. The personal documents relate to families, and include a great deal that refers to many of the historical houses of the country. I only name, very cursorily, a few : the Staffords Dukes of Buckingham, the Veres, the Seymours Dukes of Somerset : and of course a great deal that relates to the oldest and successive owners of Longleat. Also a simply enormous quantity of original correspondence of celebrated characters. The topographical department is very large and curious, containing documents relating to ancient estates in a great many counties in England and Wales, especially, of course, Somerset and Wilts. There are several original deeds, and quantities of court rolls and the like, relating to Glastonbury Abbey. The whole of these documents have been put in order, and a summary of them printed in the Reports of the Historical Commissioners. As those Reports present 48 folio pages of double column in small type under the heads of the Marquis of Bath's papers, I need not say that it is out of the question to attempt going into particular details. I will simply say that next to the collection of Hatfield papers belonging to the Marquis of Salisbury it is one of the most important private collections to be met with. It is thus described in the words of the Commissioners :—"The collection of the Marquis of Bath is a wonderfully complete and vivid illustration of our civil, military, naval, and ecclesiastical history, and from the earliest times." Canon Jackson then showed a curious and valuable MS. which he had lately discovered amongst some papers of a different nature belonging to the Marquis. It was a Register of the holdings of the tenants of Glastonbury in the time of

Abbot Henry de Soliaco, about 1189. This MS. is a perfect mine of knowledge, for it contains not only interesting topographical and archaeological particulars, but also much which is of the highest degree important to the historian in the names of the tenants, and the position held by those who were called by them.

Sir W. MEDLYCOTT expressed the thanks of the Society to the Marquis of Bath for his kindness, and to Canon Jackson for the exceedingly interesting information which he had given to them.

Mr. PARKER made a few remarks on the architecture of Longleat House, describing it as perhaps the finest Elizabethan house in the kingdom, and almost entirely unaltered. He pointed out the difference between an Elizabethan and what he might call a mediæval house; and described the arrangements of the dining hall. It was not possible to fix the exact date of this house for it was twenty years in building.

The party then drove to

Holwell Quarries

where Mr. MOORE expounded the geological lessons to be learned there. At the first quarry he remarked that, when the British Association came there, he asked a question as to what geological section he was then standing on. A gentleman who had just prepared a geological map at once replied that he must be standing on Carboniferous Limestone. Well, that was a natural supposition, Carboniferous Limestone being incident to the district; but he (Mr. Moore) rather surprised them by pointing out within a few square yards Inferior Oolite, Lias, Carboniferous Limestone, and Rhætic beds containing teeth and other remains. He himself was standing on a mineral vein filled up with crystallised carbonate of lime. So that there were several distinct geological formations in that little patch of ground. Close by was a cavern which might contain remains of elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceri, and all the beasts of the glacial period.

In the Inferior Oolite were all the shells of that period ; in the Liassic Conglomerate were all the various shells of the liassic period, and the Carboniferous Limestone had all the usual fossils.

At another quarry Mr. MOORE pointed out that there were as many as thirteen veins of younger age going down from the top to the base of the older Carboniferous Limestone rock. Here could be seen traces of iron ore, lead and calamine in the veins, and amongst the fossils had been found *microlestes*, teeth of *sargodon* and *lepidotus*, scales of *gyrolepis*, &c. *Acrodus* was also very abundant. A third quarry was also visited where the *microlestes* was found.

Rev. H. H. WINWOOD would not discuss Mr. Moore's facts which rested on too firm a basis, but would venture to differ from some of his theories. One of these theories was regarding the upheaval of the Mendips, which as they had heard yesterday, Mr. Moore considered the effect of an upthrust from below. Now if such had been the case surely the fissures, instead of widening as they descended—a fact which Mr. Moore had stated was their special peculiarity—would have lessened and become narrower below, and would have been wider above. But if they took the contrary theory, that those disturbances were caused by shrinkage of the crust of the earth and consequent subsidence, the wedge-shaped masses would descend in such a way as to narrow the fissures at the top and widen them at the bottom.

Mr. MOORE said his impression was that the Mendips had been carried bodily forward at their fullest elevation for a considerable distance to the north, that consequently there had been a tendency of the great mass of limestones to return again to their original position, and accordingly they gave way in various parts and became cracked and fissured—not all at the same time but at different geological periods. If this was the case it would be natural to expect that the fissures would widen at the bottom. In remarking that the veins widened as they

passed downwards, he only intended to apply the observation to the 40 or 50 feet seen in the face of the limestone quarries : there could be no doubt but that, like most fissures and veins found in the older rocks, they widened out in pockets, and then contracted so as occasionally to be almost lost ; this might be repeated again and again as they passed downwards in a formation of such thickness as the Carboniferous Limestone.

Nunney Castle

was next visited, and occupied the attention of the party for a considerable time.

Mr. PARKER described the ruin as the remains of a strongly fortified manor house of the fourteenth century, about the time of Edward II. The corbels running round the top of the tower once upheld wooden galleries from which stones could be hurled upon invaders. It was a small building for an Edwardian Castle, but full of interest. It was once divided into four storeys. The two lower storeys contained the kitchen, the servants' rooms and domestic offices and the dining hall ; the two upper were devoted to the family and state apartments. At one end of the building in one of the towers could be traced a sacrairum and a little oratory. It was probable that when necessary the room adjoining was used as a chapel, and that the sacrairum was at other times curtained off. Several windows and one of the fireplaces were of the time of Henry VII. It had a moat all round it, and Mr. Parker pointed out the holes through which the chains of the drawbridge probably once passed on the basement floor on the side facing the village.

Mr. DAVIS said that these holes did not seem to him to be at all like those which would have made for such a purpose. He did not believe the drawbridge was on that side of the building.

Mr. TALBOT upheld the view taken by Mr. Parker ; and Mr. Sanford and others also agreed in thinking it most probable that the holes were used for working the drawbridge.

Nunney Church

most probably partakes of the same history as the Castle. It was no doubt built by the Delameres, and was extensively altered in the reign of Henry VII.

Mr. PARKER said that it had been suggested to him that the denudation of the neighbourhood, about which they had heard so much, had affected Nunney Church. There had evidently been a considerable denudation, which he thought must have been caused by glacial action, for he never saw a church with a more icy look about it. The chief features were the ancient squints, the piscina, the font, and the tombs of the Delameres. He could not avoid referring to the fine rood screen which at that moment was standing in the temporary museum at Frome, and which had been taken from its place in that church. He was told that one of the Churchwardens had presumed to sell this beautiful part of the church fittings to some person in the neighbourhood. He did not know if the Churchwarden who had done this thing was then present, but he begged to tell him that he had done an illegal act, and the sooner he took steps to undo the mischief, the better for himself and for all parties. The screen was a peculiarly good one, it fitted, and there was no reason to believe but that it had been made for the church. The sale of it for a mere trifle by those who should have been its most jealous guardians was a disgrace to the parish, and indeed to the county. The roof of the nave was in a wretched state. He could not approve of the attempts at restoration which had been made in the interior.

The hall of an old manor house near the church, now used as a lumber store, still preserves a fine roof, music gallery, and screen. It is called the Nunnery, but of course never had anything to do with Nuns : it is a purely secular building.

A pleasant drive through Ridgway brought the party to

Mayston House,

the seat of the Earl of Cork and Orrery, the President of the

Society, who gave his numerous visitors a hearty welcome. Some time was spent in admiring the choice pictures which adorn the suite of rooms and the corridor on the ground floor. The party then gathered in the billiard room where several curious and interesting objects had been laid out.

The PRESIDENT pointed out a *fac-simile* of the original orrery, now at Cambridge. This instrument was invented by George Graham about 1700, and was presented to John, Earl of Orrery, after whom it was named at the suggestion of Steele. His Lordship also called attention to a number of original letters by distinguished men, including Pope, Swift, Dr. King, the Duke of Marlborough, with a vast amount of bad spelling, and Lord Bolingbroke ; to the Prayer Book which was the constant companion of Charles I, and which contained some notes in the King's handwriting ; to the original air pump of Robert Boyle, the philosopher, and to different other curiosities, among which should be mentioned a fine and most rare edition of Cæsar, with the famous illustration of the black bull. Lord Cork stated that a church formerly stood on the lawn immediately in front of the house, and a framed notice which hung in the room gave the following account of one of the many unknown or forgotten sufferers in the cause of Church and King, who was formerly connected with the little building.

Upon the ruin of the Royal Family and the death of the King, Lord Broghil, Earl of Orrery, retired to Marston House, situate in England, which his father, Richard, Earl of Cork, had bought of Sir John Hippesley, and was formerly part of Edmund, Earl of Cornwallis's estate.

. Lord Broghil used to repeat a singular incident. The parish church of Marston is very near to the Mansion house. Lord Orrery never failed to go thither on a Sunday, but one Sunday having sat there some time, and being disappointed of the then qualified minister, his lordship was preparing to return home when his steward told him a person in the church offered to preach. His lordship, though he looked upon the proposal only as a piece of enthusiasm, gave permission, and was never more surprised or delighted than with the sermon, which was filled with learning, sense, and piety. His lordship would not suffer the preacher to escape unknown, but invited him to dinner, and inquiring of him his name, life, and fortune, received this answer : " My Lord, my name is Ashberry ; I am a clergyman of the Church of England, and a loyal subject of the King. I have lived three years in a cottage under your warren wall, within a

few paces of your lordship's house ; my son lives with me, and we dig and read by turns. I have a little money and some few books, and I submit cheerfully to the will of Providence." This worthy and learned man, for such Lord Orrery always called him, died at Marston some years after, but not until his lordship had obtained an allowance of £30 per annum for him without any obligation of taking the covenant.

Luncheon was then announced and a large party enjoyed the hospitality of the noble President. The rest of the afternoon was spent in strolling on the terrace in front of the house which commands a splendid view.

Mr. H. DANBY SEYMOUR expressed the thanks of the Society to Lord Cork for the kind and able way in which he discharged the office of President.

The thanks of the Society are also due to Mr. E. H. Dickinson, the Chairman of the Local Committee, and to the other gentlemen who served upon it, and above all to Mr. George Walters, the Local Secretary, who gave much valuable advice and assistance in the preparations which had to be made for the Meeting. The Frome Literary and Scientific Institution kindly placed their building at the disposal of the Society during its visit, and the Local Museum was held there.

The Local Museum

contained some exceedingly interesting objects, for the loan of many of which the Society is indebted to Mr. J. W. SINGER of Frome, a name which is well known to lovers of the antique. Amongst the most noteworthy articles were—

A collection of chalices for the service of the Altar, most of them lent by Mr. Singer, amongst which was a silver one of English make with date 1570; the chalice of Beckington Church, lent by the RECTOR, 1571; the chalices of Tellisford, Nunney, and Elm.

A collection of Roman coins of different dates, lent by Mr. Singer.

A perfectly unique collection of Wedding and Betrothal Rings, mostly collected in Somersetshire by Mr. Singer, many of them having beautiful, and some with strange, mottoes.

A number of Roman coins and other articles exhibited by Mr. SHORE, and found at or near the site of the Roman villa at Whatley, discovered by and belonging to that gentleman.

A curious map of the “Mynedep Forest, with its circumjacent villages and lands,” painted on panel, exhibited by Mr. F. HORNER.

Mr. J. H. PARKER also exhibited a fine series of photographs illustrating his discoveries in Rome.



The Museum.

ADDITIONS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST VOLUME:

The Archaeological Journal.

Journal of the British Archaeological Association, and *Index* to the first 30 vols.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine.

Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland.

Proceedings and Annual Report for 1875 of the Geologists' Association.

Proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club.

Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society.

Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, No. 29.

Report of the Smithsonian Institution, U.S., 1874.

Bulletin of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., vol. vi.

Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers.

A sketch of the male descendants of Joscelin de Louvain, the Second House of Percy, Earls of Northumberland; and Life of Judge Jeffreys, by Mr. W. E. SURTEES.

Excavations at the Cave of the Kesslerloch; and Roman Imperial Profiles; and Notes on Trappean Rocks, by the Author, Mr. J. E. LEE.

Savage's History of Taunton, by Mr. R. BARNICOTT.

The Historie of this Iron Age, 1659, by Mr. WM. PROSSER.

The Visitation of Yorkshire, 1584-5 and 1612, by the Author, Mr. JOSEPH FOSTER.

Archæologia Cambrensis, vol. iii., 3rd series, to vol. vi., 4th series, 19 vols., Rev. E. L. BARNWELL.

Notes on Croquet, by the Author, Dr. PRIOR.

The Dialect of West Somerset, by the Author, Mr. F. T. ELWORTHY.

La Gerarchia Cattolica e la Famiglia Pontificia, 1876, by the Right Rev. Dr. PARFITT.

West Somerset, by the Author, Mr. E. JEBOUTT.

A classified Index to the Transactions, Proceedings, and Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London, by the Author, Mr. G. W. ORMEROD.

Address delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Geological Society of London, 1876, by Mr. J. EVANS.

The Abbey of S. Mary, in the Vale of Flowers, Cleeve, Co. Somerset, by the Author, Rev. MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOT.

Dixon's *Life of Admiral Blake* (purchased).

Return of the Owners of Land in England and Wales, 1873 (purchased).

Fac-simile of *Magna Charta*, by Mr. O. W. MALET.

Coloured engravings of Roman Pavements found at Wellow, by Rev. W. B. DOVETON.

Carved oak lintel, from the fish market at Axbridge, by the Rev. J. A. YATMAN.

Encaustic tiles, from Poyntington, by Miss HEALE.

An old painting of "Meyndepe, with its Adjacent Villages and Laws," by Mr. WM. GEORGE.

A pair of jack-boots and two swords, found inside a partition in the Manor House at Burrow, by Major BARRETT.

Model of the tomb of Scipio; lamp and model of a tomb from Herculaneum; Burmese idol; and rock and mineral specimens from Italy, by Miss KEMEYS TYNTE.

Stone axe, from an ancient burial ground near Milwaukie, Wisconsin, by Mr. JOSEPH GOODLAND.

Ancient dagger, found at Staplegrove, and an old glass bottle with the Carew crest, by Mr. TURNER.

Some old newspapers and Somersetshire tokens, by Rev. G. G. BEADON.

Cannon ball, taken from the breast of a man in Westonzoyland churchyard, and a cannon ball from Sedgemoor, by Mr. TURNER, Kingston.

Polished stone axe, and an old gun, encrusted with sand and pebbles, dredged from the sea, by Mr. W. MAYNARD.

The spur-winged goose, in case, by Mr. JNO. MARSHALL.

Fossil Turtle, found near Swanage, by Mr. J. W. WARRE TYNDALL.

A collection of 52 Taunton farthings; other Somersetshire tokens, and some Roman and English coins (purchased).

Specimens of leaf anatomy; Indian spears, shield, and clubs; case containing collection of minerals; cases of birds (purchased).

141 volumes of the Publications of the Record Commission, transferred from the library of the Somerset and Taunton Institution, by order of the Master of the Rolls, and with the consent of the Committee.

THE QUEKETT COLLECTION.—The Committee have also the pleasure to report that the valuable collection formed by the late Professor and Mr. Edward Quekett, and for many years deposited in the Hanging Chapel at Langport, has been transferred to the Society's Museum. This has been the gift of Mrs. EDWD. QUEKETT.

*Deposited by the Proprietors of the Somerset and
Taunton Institution.*

Collection of so-called Kimmeridge coal money ; key found in the Castle Moat, Taunton ; stone hatchet used by the Canadian Indians ; bronze celt ; antique bronze figure of Hercules ; fragment of tessellated pavement from the Baths of Titus ; stuccoes preserving colour from Pompeii ; cast from a monumental tablet from ancient Rome ; lamp from Pompeii ; three Egyptian sepulchral stones ; pair of spurs from Westminster Abbey ; bundle Fiji arrows ; bundle Indian arrows ; six Indian axes ; Indian bow ; four knives and daggers ; two Indian staves ; drawing of tessellated pavement at Pitney ; stone from the Giants' Causeway ; wolf in case ; osprey ; snipe ; stork.

Conversazione Meeting.

Dec. 7th, 1875.

On Evolution, by Mr. W. A. SANFORD.

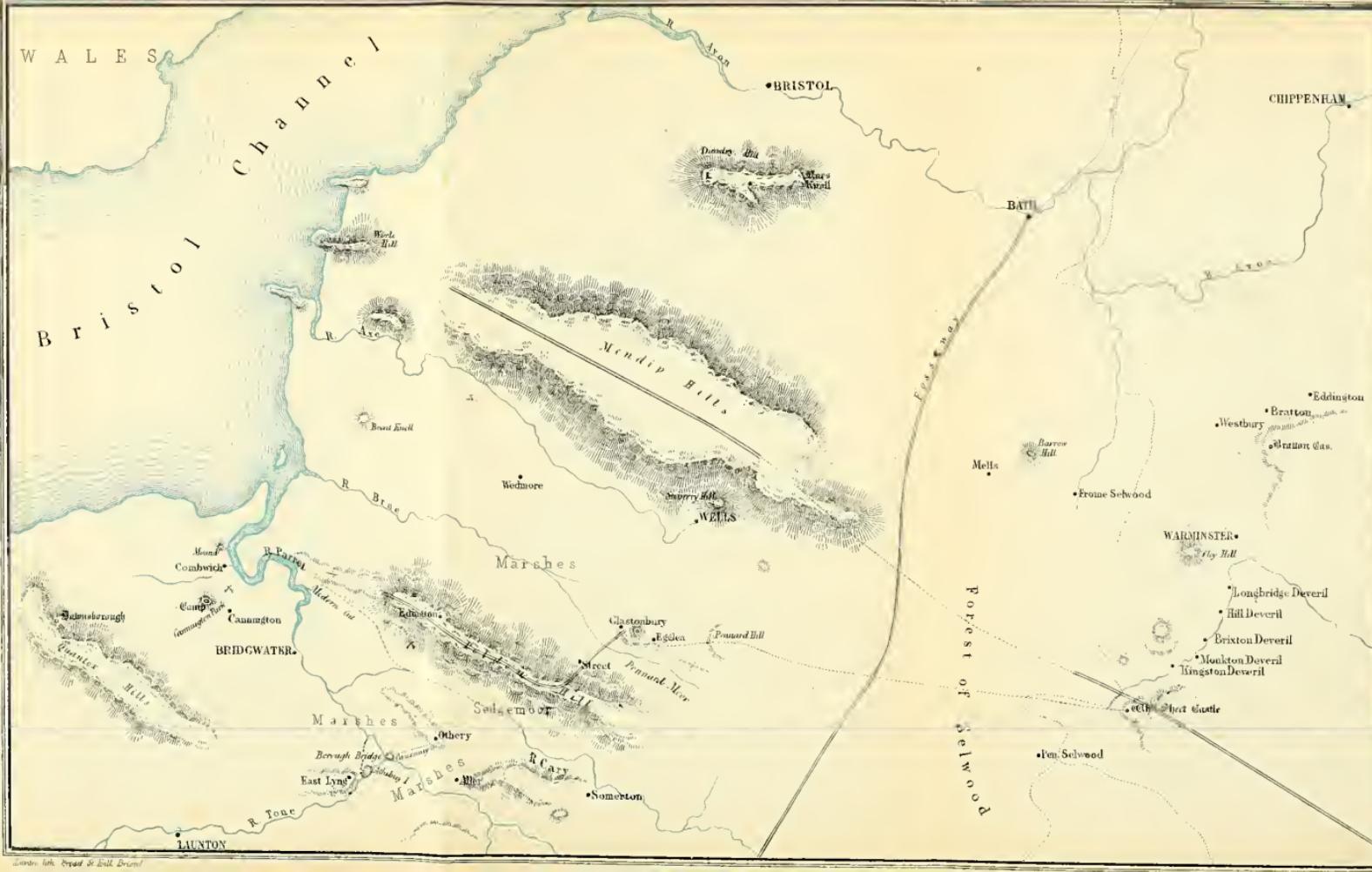
On Evolution in Civilization, by Mr. E. B. TYLOR, F.R.S.

Conversazione Meeting.

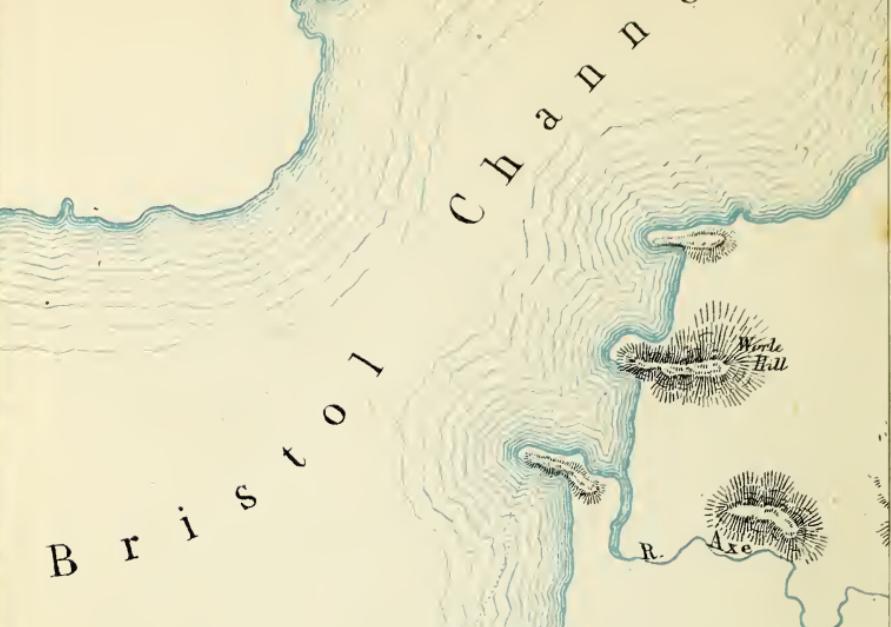
Dec. 7th, 1875.

On Evolution, by Mr. W. A. SANFORD.

On Evolution in Civilization, by Mr. E. B. TYLOR, F.R.S.



W A L E S



B r i s t o l



Mound
Combe

R. Parrett
Cannington

Edington

Cannington Park

Cannington

BRIDGWATER.



Gainsborough

Quare

Hils

Quantock

Marshes

East Lyng

Borough Bridge

Ashover

Marsh

Tone

Lausonway

*Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
1875, Part II.*

PAPERS, ETC.

An inquiry concerning the real

Site of the Battle of Æthandune,

*and of other localities mentioned by Asser in his account of the great
struggle which took place in the year 878, between King Ælfred
and the Danes for the possession of Wessex.*

BY HON. AND RT. REV. WILLIAM CLIFFORD,
Bishop of Clifton.

THE battle of Æthandune, which took place in the year 878 between the English under King Ælfred and the Danish army under Gothrum, may justly be regarded as one of the most important events in our national history. The existence of the English as a nation was decided on that day. The Danes had already made themselves masters of the whole of England, with the exception of a portion of the kingdom of Wessex. If the issue of this battle had been reversed, if Gothrum had triumphed instead of Ælfred, the conquest of England would have been completed, and the English would henceforth have been reduced to the condition into which the men of Northumbria had already sunk, of harrowers and plowers to the Danes.¹ This calamity was averted by the

(1). Sax. Chron. 876.

genius and perseverance of *Ælfred*, but the means by which he achieved success are involved in much obscurity, and doubt exists as to the very site of *Æthandune* itself. It is generally supposed to be Bratton Hill, near Edington, in Wilts. My object in the present paper is to show that the true site of *Æthandune* is not in Wiltshire but in Somerset. I shall also bring forward evidence regarding other localities mentioned by Asser and the Chronicle, and the identification of these places will enable me to set forth a clear and connected narrative of the steps by which *Ælfred* prepared and achieved this the greatest of his victories.

At the close of summer of the year 877 the Danish army,² having been compelled by *Ælfred* to surrender at Exeter, swore to leave Wessex, and withdrew to Gloucester in Mercia. But on twelfth-night, the 6th of January, 878, they stole out to Chippenham which they surprised and captured. Gothrum, their leader, had hoped by this treacherous move to seize the King, but *Ælfred* saved himself by flight, and the Danes having only partially succeeded in their object, did not attempt further operations at that season of the year. They rode over and subdued to their will the surrounding country, but without penetrating into the interior of Wessex they took up their winter quarters in Chippenham. *Ælfred*, with a small band of followers, sought for safety the fastnesses of the moors, and led a restless life amongst the peat marshes of Somerset. He also was forced patiently to bide his time. Meanwhile the winter passed by.

Presently an event occurred which is thus described by Asser :—“That same year a brother of Healfden and Inguar,

(2). This large heathen army came over to England A.D. 866, after which date the Saxon Chronicle always refers to it as “the army” se here,” and Asser calls it “Paganorum exercitus; praedictus Exercitus.” It was composed, writes Ingulf, of the followers of five kings, and as many dukes, but the supreme command was intrusted to Gothrum, and under his artful guidance “The army” steadily pursued the conquest of England. It was against this army that *Ælfred* had to contend throughout.

with three-and-twenty ships, leaving the region of Demetia where he had wintered, after having made great slaughter of the Christians of those parts, set sail for Devon, and there with twelve hundred men rashly doing, he was in the end defeated and slain by the King's officers before the castle Cynwit. For within the enclosure of this same castle many of the King's officers with their men had taken refuge together. Now when the Pagans saw that the castle was destitute of provisions, and without means of defence of any kind, save that it had walls after our fashion, they did not attempt to carry it by assault; but as the nature of the ground rendered it very safe on all sides except towards the east (as we ourselves have noticed), they began to lay siege to it, thinking that those men driven by hunger and thirst and the blockade would soon be compelled to surrender, for there was no water nigh to the castle. But it turned out contrary to what they had expected. For the Christians waited not to be reduced to such extremities, but inspired from heaven, and deeming it far preferable to earn either death or victory, in the early morning suddenly rushed down upon the Pagans, and assailing their enemies like wild boars, put to the sword the greater part of them, together with their king, a few only making good their escape to the ships, and there they took no small amount of spoil. Amongst other things they got possession of the flag called the Raven."

The brother of Healfden and Ingwar here spoken of is Ubbo, as we learn from John Brompton and Gaimar.³ It is important we should determine with accuracy the date of his landing on the English coast. Nor is it difficult to do so. It must have

(3). Ubbo is one of the ten chiefs mentioned by Ingulph, whose followers constituted the Danish army: he was therefore probably with Gothrum at Exeter in the previous summer. It seems that the army on quitting Exeter sailed round the Land's End, and returned by the Severn to Gloucester in Mercia. But on reaching the Bristol Channel Ubbo with his followers must have detached himself from the rest and landed in South Wales (Demetia). See *Poste Britannic Researches*, B. 11, c. 1; Gildas *Ep.*, c. 31), where he ravaged the coast and took up his quarters for the winter. He was now coming over to England to rejoin the army under Gothrum and complete the conquest of Wessex.

taken place in spring : for Ubbo came from Wales where he had passed the winter. (*In qua hiemaverat*). It cannot therefore have occurred much *before* the vernal equinox, the 21st of March. But neither can it have taken place *later* than that date. For it was not till after Ælfred had received the news of the death of Ubbo that he began to build a fort at Athelney, and this he did *at Easter*. (Sax. Chron.) Now Easter in that year fell on the 23rd of March ; the landing therefore must have taken place about the 21st.⁴

The *date* being thus fixed, the *site* of the landing must next be determined ; and in weighing the evidence attention must be paid not only to each separate statement, but even more so to the harmony between those statements which results from the adoption of the particular site which I am about to indicate, whereas on every other supposition those statements appear to be either meaningless or contradictory.

It is commonly asserted that the Danes under Ubbo landed at Apledoore, near Bideford, in North Devon : now I can find no ground whatever for this opinion. Asser, the Chronicle, and all ancient writers assert that he landed in Devon, but none of them mention Apledoore, and the opinion seems to have originated with an error of Spelman, who quotes Leland as his authority. But Leland in the passage referred to is speaking of an invasion which took place at Apledoore in Kent full twelve years later, A.D. 893, as may be seen in the Saxon Chronicle which is quoted by Leland.

No place near Apledoore in Devon answers to the description given by Asser of Cynwit Castle. Lisson in his *Magna Britannia*, refers to a paper by Mr. Studley Videt, F.S.A., who "supposes that a small fortified spot called Henniborough, or Henny Castle, about a mile north-east of Bideford, was the site

(4). The 20th of March was the feast of St. Cuthbert, to whose intercession Ælfred, as William of Malmesbury informs us, used to ascribe the change which now took place in his fortunes. Perhaps the death of Ubbo occurred on that day.

of Kynwith Castle, of which Camden and Baxter had considered every vestige to have been long ago obliterated or swallowed up by the sea. In one important point however, the want of water, it does not agree with Asser's description." This circumstance alone is fatal to its claims.

Nor is it easy to imagine what motive could have induced Ubbo to land at a spot where he would be separated by the river Taw and the forest of Exmore from the army of Gothrum. There can be little doubt that Ubbo and Gothrum were acting in concert. "It appears," says Lingard, "as if the two brothers had previously agreed to crush the King between the pressure of their respective armies." As Ælfred was in the marshes of Somerset, and Gothrum was coming from Chippenham, Ubbo, in order to attain this object, should have landed his forces at the mouth of the river Parret; and that he did so in fact will I think be made clear by the evidence I am about to produce. It will naturally be objected that the Parret is in Somerset, whereas Ubbo is expressly stated to have landed in Devonshire. But the Parret in those days was the boundary of the two shires,⁵ so that Ubbo's having landed in Devon need only imply that he landed on the western bank of that river. Now on the western bank of the Parret, a few miles below Bridgwater, stands the little seaport of Combwich, and Cymwich is the name by which Roger de Hoveden designates the place where Ubbo fell.⁶ At the distance of about a mile from Combwich is Cannington Park: an isolated hill of limestone, rising abruptly from the plain. On its summit is an ancient encampment, answering in every respect to Asser's description of the Castle of Cynwit. Its walls, injured by time, are built of loose stones

(5). See note at end of this paper.

(6). "Occisi sunt ante Cimwick, in qua se praedicti regis ministri refugii causa concluserant." Rog. de Hov. The Cynwit of Asser and the Cimwick of Roger are only different forms of spelling the same word. Cyn-wit or Cyn-wich, signifying King's-town, was probably the name of the port. Cyn-wit-tun, *arx Cynwit*, the castle or enclosure of King's-town, the name of the adjoining fort. May not this be the origin of Cannington?

like other British encampments (*more nostro*, says the Briton Asser), the escarpment of the hill is very precipitous on all sides except towards the east, and there is no water on the hill. It is also worthy of remark that Asser mentions having seen the place himself. Now Asser during his stay at the court of Ælfred had repeatedly occasion to visit his monastery in Wales, as he himself informs us. The port at the mouth of the Parret offered the most ready means of communication for that purpose.⁷ Asser therefore must more than once have found himself detained in this immediate neighbourhood when waiting to embark. On any one of these occasions he would naturally visit a spot so full of interest to him. It is not easy on the other hand to see what circumstances could have led him to Bideford.

Before proceeding further I must call attention to some passages of other writers,⁸ which seem at first sight to conflict with the narrative of Asser, but which in fact confirm and illustrate it if only it be admitted that the Danes landed at the mouth of the Parret. John Brompton, who flourished towards the close of the twelfth century, writes as follows :—“The Danes on hearing of Ælfred’s arrival abandoned the city (Exeter) and proceeded into Wessex as far as Chippenham. There (*i.e.* in Wessex) they did much damage, pillaging the country, imprisoning the men, and so forcing the inhabitants to fly from their native land. But there (*i.e.* in Wessex) King Ælfred came upon them, and bravely fought a battle with the Danes, in which

(7). An ancient road runs along the ridge of Polden hill direct from the mouth of the Parret to Glastonbury : and another from the neighbourhood of Glastonbury through Selwood to Sarum and Winchester.

(8). These writers are late, as compared with Asser and the Chronicle, and therefore it might not be thought prudent to attach great weight to their statements. But the strength of their testimony lies in this : that whereas they appear to contradict Asser, or to be wholly unintelligible on the supposition that what Asser relates took place near Bideford, they harmonise with him and throw light on his narrative if the scene of action is placed at Combwich. It is seldom that writers invent stories for the mere purpose of deceiving their readers ; but it would be truly wonderful if facts and places harmonized with fiction better than with truth.

conflict Ubbo, the brother of Ingvar, and Bruen Bocard, who first came over with them from Denmark, were slain. Many were killed on either side, but the Danes were in the end victorious, and King Ælfred who, surrounded by a few followers, had pressed too far in advance, withdrew on that occasion as best he could from the field.⁹ The Danes finding the body of Ubbo amongst the slain, buried it with loud lamentations, and raised over it a mound which they named Ubbalowe ; wherefore the place is so called to this day, and it is in the county of Devon."

It seems difficult at first sight to reconcile this narrative with the preceding one of Asser. Asser describes a Saxon victory, Brompton a defeat. No mention is made of Ælfred by Asser ; Brompton says not only that he was present but that his daring nearly cost him his life. Lastly, Brompton has been understood to say that Ubbo was slain near Chippenham and buried in Devonshire. Whereupon Spelman remarks that he is not consistent either with other writers or with himself. But these discrepancies are not real.

1st, Asser, it is true, relates a victory gained by the Saxons *in the early morning*, but his language plainly indicates that it had been preceded by a defeat. He describes the Castle of Cynwith as an open camp without water, and wholly destitute of provisions and of every means of defence except its walls. It was not therefore a garrisoned fortress, but simply a place where some of the King's officers had taken refuge on an emergency (*in qua se concluserant refugii causa*).¹⁰ Brompton tells us what that emer-

(9). "Propter suam nimiam versus eos accelerationem paucis stipatus, a campo illa vice, modo meliori quo poterat, se retraxit."

(10). Several such camps in various parts of the country were used for the purpose of affording refuge to the inhabitants, or to small bodies of troops when surprised by the Danes, till succour arrived. They were called *Sheet-castles*, or castles of refuge. Thus *Sheet-anchor*, is the safety-anchor, and *sheet* in nautical language is the safety-rope—a rope fastened to the lower corner of the sail, and which may be slackened at will, so as to prevent the boat capsizing. Castle-of-Comfort (a name which also occurs in various parts of the country) has the same signification : comfort being used in the sense of support or assistance.

gency was, namely a defeat sustained on the previous day. The success of the Saxons was (as we shall see presently) only transient, and had no effect in reversing the victory gained by the Danes, wherefore Brompton, who does not profess to give more than a brief summary, treats the two events as portions of one engagement, the final result of which was favourable to the Danes, though Ubbo lost his life : Asser on the contrary relates at full the success of the Saxons, but, with something of the address of a courtier, passes over in silence the previous defeat of his patron.

2ndly, \AA lfred was not with the party that took refuge in Cynwith Castle, hence no mention occurs of him in Asser's account. But if the landing took place at Combwich, then what Brompton says *must* be true, viz., that \AA lfred was present at the battle on the previous day. For if he was at the time in Athelney, or anywhere in the marshes, how can we suppose that the beacons were lighted, the country roused, and a battle fought within a few miles of his place of abode without his taking part in it ?

3rdly, Brompton does not say (as Spelman understands him to say) that Ubbo fell near Chippenham and was buried in Devonshire. What he says is that Ubbo fell in a battle fought in Wessex in which \AA lfred was engaged with the army which had occupied Chippenham, and that he was buried in Devonshire. His words present no difficulty if we assume \AA lfred to have been in the marshes of Somerset, Ubbo to have landed at Combwich, Gothrum to have marched from Chippenham to meet him, and the battle to have taken place on the banks of the Parret, that river forming the boundary of the county of Devon.

The next statement to which I must draw attention is one which has greatly puzzled historians. \AA thelward gives an account of the Saxon victory before Cynwith, similar in every respect to that given by Asser, but concludes with the remark that in the end the place where the Saxons had gained the victory re-

mained in possession of the Danes. “*Postremo victoriae obtinenter locum Dani.*” How this came to pass I shall show presently.

Another point to be observed is, that while Asser states that a few only of the Danes escaped to their ships, Matthew of Westminster says that the greater part of the followers of Ubbo joined Gothrum, and together with his troops ravaged the country.¹¹

Lastly, it should be noticed that Asser ascribes the death of Ubbo to his having acted rashly (*perperam agens*), though it is not easy to see anything in his narrative to justify the charge.

The explanation of these seemingly conflicting statements is to be found in the account which follows. About the 18th or 19th of March a Danish fleet of three-and-twenty ships was descried in the Bristol Channel coming from Wales. The beacons¹² on Quantock notified its approach. Forthwith the men from all the country around hastened to the appointed place of assembly. Odda, the Alderman of Devon, was ready at his post,¹³ and Ælfred who was probably at Athelney, and certainly somewhere in the marshes at the time, was not long in joining

(11). “Maxima pars eorum per fugam elapsi ad Gytronem regem pagannorum se contulerunt.” Matth. West.

(12). Beacons in the days of Ælfred consisted of stacks of wood. They were called *dagunga*, and in later times *dawns*, from *dagian* to dawn, to spread light. King Edward III, in the eleventh year of his reign, ordered that there should be substituted high standards, with pitch-pans on the top of them. These were called Dawn trees. The family of Dauntre bore three such dawn trees on their escutcheon. (See Guillim's *Heraldry*). Dundry tower, near Bristol, marks the site of a Dawn tree. Dunster is Dawns-tor—the beacon-tor. In connection with the Dawns or beacons, camps were established where the troops might assemble. These were termed Dawnsboroughs—a name not unfrequently corrupted to Danesborough. The name of Beggars bush or Beggars huish, which is not uncommonly to be found in the neighbourhood of such places, is a corruption of Becker's-bush and Becker's huish—the hostelry or the dwelling of the beckers—the men who had charge of the beacons.

(13). His name is mentioned by Æthelward. He was probably at Taunton, that fortress guarding the entrance to Devonshire on the side whence an attack would be expected from the Danes coming from Chippenham. There is a Dawnsborough on the Quantock, and it is not at all improbable that it is the place where the troops assembled on this occasion, and marched from thence to oppose the landing of the Danes.

them. He anxiously watched the progress of the fleet, and when it became clear that they were making for the mouth of the Parret he led his men to the river to oppose the landing. Meanwhile Gothrum had left Chippenham and was marching to meet Ubbo, with the view of closing Ælfred between their two forces. The battle ensued, which is described by Brompton. Some of Gothrum's men must have arrived in time to take part in it, and it was probably the arrival of these reinforcements that turned the scale in favour of the Danes. The Saxons were defeated, and Ælfred with difficulty escaped being either killed or made prisoner. Of his followers who survived, the greater number fled, in all probability to the Quantock, but Odda, the alderman, with some of the King's officers and men, veterans no doubt accustomed to this kind of warfare, took refuge in the Castle of Cynwit, now Cannington Park, which was close at hand. The Danes did not pursue the fugitives, but at once prepared to overrun and pillage the country. For this purpose the main body of the army crossed over to the right, or Somerset, side of the river, which offered the greatest amount of booty. But Ubbo, with a select band of followers, remained on the left bank to conduct in person the siege of the castle, thinking, no doubt that Ælfred was amongst those who had taken refuge within its enclosure, and so designing for him a martyrdom similar to that which only eight years previously he had inflicted on St. Edmund, King of the East Saxons.¹⁴

We shall now see how his failure was due to his having *acted rashly*. Immediately opposite the entrance on the east side of the camp on Cannington Park is a lower eminence, now worked as a quarry,¹⁵ and near it are some springs. Here Ubbo planted

(14). The name of the leaders who slew the King were Hinguar and Hubba. *Sax. Chron.* 870.

(15). The men who work these quarries have found here many remains of bodies lying scattered immediately under the surface. By some they have been supposed to belong to followers of the Duke of Monmouth, who fled from the battle of Sedgmoor: possibly they are the bones of Danes, the followers of Ubbo.

his standard, and took up his position to watch the Saxons and prevent their gaining access to the water. He was in full sight of the main body of the army, which was encamped at about a mile's distance on the opposite bank of the river, so that by sounding his horn he could at any time summon reinforcements in case of need. One circumstance he failed to notice. The bed of the Parret, which at this spot is of considerable width, consists of deep alluvial mud which cannot be forded. This circumstance was well known to Odda and the men of Devon, and the sequence shows that they timed their attack so that it should take place when the tide was low. Their sudden and unexpected onslaught threw the Danes into confusion, but Ubbo thought soon to restore confidence by summoning his supports. Only then he discovered that he had rashly cut himself off from the army. The ships lay high and dry on the banks, and the mud rendered it impossible for the Danes on the opposite shore to ford the stream. They could hear the cries and witness the slaughter of their comrades, but they were powerless to render them any assistance. A panic ensued. Ubbo fell, bravely fighting and vainly endeavouring to rally his men. With him fell the greater part of the besiegers,¹⁶ a few only, as Asser relates, escaping to the ships. Here under the protection of the archers on the opposite shore, they were safe from pursuit. But these were only a portion of the men who had followed Ubbo from Wales, the greater portion were on the opposite bank, and they, as Matthew of Westminster states, joined Gothrum.

The Alderman and his little troop did not tarry long on the spot. Long before the rising tide could float the Danish ships (within an hour, says the *Vita S. Neot*) they made good their

(16). The number of Danes slain is computed in the Chronicle at 840. This in any case must comprise not only those who were slain during the sortie from the fort, but those also who fell in the engagement which preceded it, when, as Brompton says, many were slain on either side. But the truth is that no great reliance can be placed on these numbers, for the field of battle having remained in possession of the Danes, it is not easy to see what means the Saxons could have had of counting the dead.

retreat to the Quantock. But first they stripped the bodies of Ubbo and the other chiefs of their rich armour and costly ornaments, and possessed themselves of the royal war-flag. These costly spoils they carried with them as trophies of their victory.

As soon as the tide floated their ships the Danes crossed over, and thus it came to pass, as *Æthelward* states, that “*in the end the Danes gained possession of the place where the victory had been won*” by the Saxons. But the victors were far away. Amongst the slain the Danes found the denuded body of their chief, and they gave him the honours of a royal funeral. With loud lamentations they bore his mangled remains to a spot on the shore near to his ships.¹⁷ There they laid him in the ground, and raised over his remains a large pile of stones. Brompton says “They named it Ubbalowe, and it is in the county of Devon.” The place, says Camden, “has ever since been known to our historians as Hubbaboro, or tumulus Hubbae,” the mound of Hubba.

Does any vestige of it remain at this day? I have diligently sought for it. At the distance of about a mile from Combwich, on, what I call the Devonshire side of the river, at the corner of a field on the left hand side of the road, which leads from Stokeland Bristol to Stert, not far from the bank of the river, may be seen a large circular mound covered with turf and surrounded by a trench. Its appearance and position recalls the tombs of the Vikings lately discovered in Norway.¹⁸ May not this be the mound of Ubbo? I have not found any evidence

(17). “*Dani cadaver Uubbe, inter occisos invenientes, illud cum clamore maximo sepelierunt, cumulum apponentes, quem Hubbelowe vocaverunt: unde sic usque in hodiernum diem locus ille appellatus est, et est in comitatu Devoniae.*” Brompton.

(18). A very interesting account was published in 1872 at Christiana by Professor Ringgold, of the opening of one of these tombs. A ship had been dragged on shore, the body of the Viking had been laid in it, and a pile of stones raised over it, the whole was covered with turf. The ship in this instance was discovered in a very perfect condition. The question as to whether the mound near Stert is the mound of Ubbo, might perhaps be decided by exploring it: but this ought not to be attempted except under the direction of experienced archaeologists.

of its ever having been known by the name of Hubbalowe or Hubbaboro, but at the distance of about a mile there is a farm called Upper Cock farm. *Cock* is a word still in use to signify a mound or hillock, when we speak of a *hay-cock*. *To cock* is *to set erect or raise on piles*. May not then *Upper-cock* be a corruption of *Ubba-coc*, the *mound of Ubba*?

The victory at Kenwith greatly raised the spirits of the English, but it had no immediate effect on the fortunes of the war. The Danes had lost one (perhaps more than one) of their chiefs and many of their comrades, but they retained all the advantages gained by their victory on the previous day. There was no English army to follow up Odda's success. The remainder of Ubbo's forces joined the army under Gothrum and spread themselves like locusts over the country, pillaging and burning all that came within their reach. They extended their raids as far as Glastonbury which they destroyed.¹⁹

Meanwhile, however, the news of Adda's victory was not long in reaching the ear of Ælfred, who having narrowly escaped death or capture in the previous engagement, had sought safety somewhere in the neighbourhood, probably on the Quantock. He lost no time in turning to account the enthusiasm to which this unexpected success had given birth amongst his officers and men. The plan of action he now formed was so bold in its conception and so successful in its execution, that his followers ever after ascribed it to a special inspiration from heaven. The Danes were encamped on the right of the Parret in the vale of Bridgwater : Ælfred conceived the idea of gaining possession of the heights of Polden hill in the rear and suddenly falling upon the enemy who would be shut up on every other side by the river and the marshes. But in order to carry out this plan he had to meet at the outset two formidable obstacles. 1st, an army had to be raised numerous, and well trained enough to cope

(19). “Splenduit locus usque ad Danorum sub Elfredo Rege adventum : tunc ut caetera desolatus, notas desideravit incolas. Porro quidquid turbo bellorum obriverat, reparavit Dunstanus.” Guil. Malms.

with the forces under Gothrum, and this had to be done without attracting the enemy's notice. 2ndly, the raising of such a force would require considerable time, and meanwhile it would be necessary to occupy the attention of the enemy, and detain him in his present position till the English army was ready for action. A matter of no small difficulty, for it was natural to suppose that in a very short time the Danes, after pillaging the country near Bridgwater, would proceed into the interior, in the direction either of Exeter or of Winchester, in order to complete the conquest of Wessex. Ælfred provided for both these difficulties. He commissioned some of his most trusted officers to call to arms all the men of Somerset, of Wilts, and of Hampshire²⁰ who had not fled the country from fear of the Danes, and to assemble them in groups in the towns and villages to the east of Selwood. This great forest and the marshes which lay to the west of it would screen the assembling forces from the observation of the Danes in the vale of Bridgwater. Moreover in order the better to secure secrecy, he occupied (says Wallingford) the towns in the hills and guarded the passes.²¹

The second and more difficult task of occupying the enemy's attention and detaining him in his present position till all was ready for action, Ælfred undertook to perform in person.²² He chose for his companions a small body of men chiefly from amongst the nobles of Somerset: men acquainted with the

(20). Gaimer v. 3168, adds *Dorset*. The men of Devon are not mentioned, though many of those who had fled after the first defeat must have rejoined Odda on hearing of his success. It is probable that they were required to remain on Quantock, and at Taunton, to be ready in case Gothrum attempted to march on Exeter.

(21). “Reeptis undique viribus, municipia occupavit montuosa, et loca transitu difficilia munivit, et viam hostibus interclusit.” Walling. an. 878.

(22). Ælfred went to Athelney at Easter (March 23rd), only a few days after the death of Ubbo, which, as we have seen, must have taken place about March the 21st. The news could not have reached Ælfred so rapidly, nor could he have proceeded to fortify Athelney so shortly after, unless the event had taken place in the vicinity. This is a fresh proof that Ubbo landed and was slain not far from Athelney. Moreover the very choice of Athelney by Ælfred, as a place from which he could assail the Danes, shows that already at Easter the Danish army was in that neighbourhood.

country and the dangerous passes through the marshes. With them he repaired to the island of Athelney, and so careful was he to guard against any chance of his secrets being betrayed to the enemy, that he would admit none into the island but nobles, or men entitled by their rank to sit as members of his household at the royal table—men on whose honour he could implicitly rely.²³ All the works which he undertook in the island were accomplished by the hands of these men. Hence it received the name of *Æthelinga-igg*, *Clytonum insula*, the island of the *Æthelings* or nobles.²⁴

It is impossible here to do more than briefly to indicate the nature of the works undertaken by *Ælfred* in the island. The hillock, known at present as the island of Athelney, forms but a small portion of the island as it existed in the days of *Ælfred*.²⁵ This higher ground afforded pasture for a few cows, but the greater portion of the island, which extended as far as the conflux of the Tone and the Parret, and for a considerable distance down the right bank of the latter river, consisted of low, swampy ground, barely raised above the level of the surrounding waters, and covered by a forest of alders, giving shelter to deer and other game. Not far from the conflux of the two rivers, on the far side of the Parret, rises a steep, conical hill or *Stan*, whence the marsh derives its name of *Stan meer* (now Stanmoor). At the foot of this rock *Ælfred* threw a bridge across the Parret, and on the hill itself he built a fort, or entrenchment (which *Asser* praises for the elegance of its design²⁶), whence the bridge

(23). “Nec aliae tunc ei adjutrices, excepto his qui regio pastu utebantur famulis.” *Æthelw.* lib. iii.

(24). *Æthelney* has the same meaning. *East-Ling*, the name of the adjoining village, is a corruption of *Ætheling* or *Æthelinga-igg*.

(25). For the extent and features of the island I rely chiefly on the testimony of William of Malmesbury. The works are described by *Asser* as he saw them some years after their erection when he visited the monastery which *Ælfred* founded at Athelney. I have compared the localities as they exist at present with the descriptions of these writers.

(26). It probably consisted of three concentric rings rising one above the other and crowning the summit of the hill.

in after times derived its name of *Borough bridge*. This fort answered the double purpose of guarding the entrance to the island, and furnishing a look-out on the enemy and the surrounding country. From the foot of the *stan* a natural cause-way, about a mile in length, stretched across the marsh to the high ground near Othery, whence access might be obtained to the vale of Bridgwater. It was mostly covered by water, and formed one of those dangerous passes known to the natives, which were practicable at certain seasons and at certain stages of the tide. This causeway \AA lfred improved so as to render more easy the access to the main land, and at the far end of it he constructed another smaller fort as a protection. From this impregnable position \AA lfred with his companions daily sallied forth to assail the Danes.²⁸ The object of these sorties was—1st. To abstract from the enemy and those who had submitted to their yoke, the food necessary for the support of himself and his companions. 2ndly. To draw the attention of the Danes away from Selwood, and make them believe that the English were gathering in force on the left bank of the Parret. This strategy met with complete success. Gothrum soon became aware that \AA lfred was preparing for battle, though he was ignorant of the nature and extent of his preparations. “The enemy,” writes Wallingford, “acted with no less caution on the other hand, and strained every nerve to meet the English successfully in the field. For this purpose Gothrum summoned from all parts the Danes who had settled in various places in England, and had occupied towns in the hills, ordering them to quit these and join the army, thus rushing headlong, and as it were advisedly into the snare. For he saw that there was danger in delay, as the King’s army increased in strength every day. Wherefore he likewise drew together a large force, and prodigal of the lives of his men anxiously looked forward to the day of the conflict.”

In seven weeks’ time, that is to say by Whitsunday, the 11th of

(28). Both Asser and the Chronicle mention these sorties. \AA ethelward says they were *daily*. Lib. iii.

May, the officers were able to report to Ælfred that the English army east of Selwood was ready to take the field. "Then," writes Asser, "in the seventh week after Easter he rode to the Rock of Ægbryht (ad Petram Ægbryhta), which lies on the eastern side of the forest of Selwuda, in Latin *Sylva magna*, in British *Coitmaur*, and there all the inhabitants of Somerset and Wilton, and all those of the county of Hamtun who had not gone beyond sea through fear of the Pagans, came to meet him. And seeing the King they were duly filled with immense joy, and welcomed him as one who had come to life again after so many tribulations. Early at dawn of the following day, the King moving his camp came to a place called Æcglea and there he encamped one night. Next morning at daybreak moving thence his standard he came to the place called Ethandun, and bravely waging war against the whole Pagan army, protected by a dense covering of shields, after a long and stubborn conflict he with the Divine assistance gained the victory."

Each of the places mentioned by Asser requires our particular attention.

The forest of Selwood,²⁸ covered the high ground on the borders of Somerset and Wilts. Leland (circ. A.D. 1550) writes concerning it, "As it is now it is a 30 miles yn compace, and streacheth one way almost onto Warminstre, and another way onto the Quarters of Shaftesbury, by estimation a ten miles." The limits assigned to it by the royal commissioners who perambulated the boundaries in the reign of Edward I, substantially agree with those mentioned by Leland.²⁹ Probably in the days of Ælfred they were much wider.

Leaving Athelney, Ælfred with some of his officers traversed

(28). Simon of Durham calls it Mycel-wudu, which really means "the Great wood," like the Latin and British names given by Asser, whereas Selwudu or Seal-wudu means Willow-wood. Probably its full name was Mycel-seal-wudu, the Great-willow-wood, but it was called for brevity sake the Great wood, by the Romans and Britons—and the Willow-wood by the Saxons. And this is all in fact that Asser states.

(29.) See Collinson's *Somerset*, and Phelps.

this forest, and after a ride of over thirty miles he came early in the morning to the Rock of Egbryht, or Egbert. (*Egbryhtes-stane. Sax. Chron.*) “Brixton Deveril,” writes Sir Richard Hoare, “was undoubtedly the Petra Ægbryhta of Asser.” The position of this village east of Selwood, and the resemblance between Brixton and Egbryhtes-stane or Egbright-stan, has led most historians to adopt this view. But though I readily admit Brixton to be a corruption of Ægbryhtes-stane, the following reasons seem to show that Brixton-Deveril does not mark the site of the Rock of Egbert. 1st, Five villages in the same valley bear the name of Deveril, and they are distinguished from each other by an adjunct taken from some neighbouring object or circumstance. (Hill-Deveril, Monkton Deveril, etc.) All therefore that we have a right to assume is, that the Rock of Egbert, from which Brixton-Deveril derives its distinctive name, was somewhere in that neighbourhood. 2ndly, From the pointed way in which Asser calls attention to the meaning of Egbryhtes-stane it seems natural to conclude that it stood on a rock or eminence. Brixton-Deveril lies by a stream in the valley. 3rdly, The country east of Selwood abounds in military camps : is it probable that Ælfred would have chosen in preference to any one of these for assembling his troops a retired village offering no military advantage whatever? Egbryhtes-stane is spoken of in the *Vita S. Neot* as of well-known celebrity.³⁰ 4th, Ælfred went to Egbryhtes-stane to raise his standard and summon to it from all the country around the men who had been assembling in the towns and villages during the past seven weeks. The scene is thus described in the *Vita S. Neot* :— “Having reached the place known to us by the famous name of Egbright-stan, which signifies the Rock of Egbright, they reined their horses, and sounded their warlike instruments to notify the arrival of the King. The shrill voice of the trumpets proclaimed the news far and wide, and on hearing the summons

(30). “Ad locum pervenientes quem Egbright-stan celebri novimus designatum vocabulo.” *Vita S. Neot.*

countless numbers flocked to them in the course of that day." This description implies some lofty eminence commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country, and such a place the famous Rock of Egbert must have been.

I recognise it in an ancient encampment of extraordinary strength situated on the brow of a steep and lofty promontory, at a few miles distance from Brixton-Deveril, known at this day by the name of Whit-Sheet-Castle. Two ancient roads, one British, the other the Roman road to Sarum, pass in its immediate vicinity, whilst all around it are to be seen numerous mounds and ancient remains, which clearly indicate that the place was of great importance even before the days of *Ælfred*. The view from its walls extends over a vast plain studded with towns and villages, and minor camps crown several of the neighbouring heights. This I believe to be the true Rock of Egbert, and I think it probable that not only Brixton-Deveril, but also Kingston-Deveril and Hill Deveril, derive their distinctive appellations from this famous stronghold.³¹ From this commanding position *Ælfred* unfurled his standard and proclaimed his presence by sound of trumpet, and thither all the men flocked to him from the towns and villages around during the course of the day. The assembled forces slept that night on the heights round Ecg'bryhtes-stane, and early next morning *Ælfred* began his march to surprise the enemy. At evening he pitched his camp at a place called *Æcglea* or *Iglea*.

All attempts to identify this locality have hitherto failed. It is supposed that it must have been somewhere in the neighbourhood of Westbury. But the first step towards the identification of *Iglea* is to ascertain where the enemy was encamped that *Ælfred* was marching to attack, for *Iglea* lay on his line of march. Now the army over which *Ælfred* gained the victory at

(31). Two other points of this same hill on which the castle stands bear the names of Kingston down (Cynges-stane-dun, the hill of the King's rock) and King's hill.

Æthandune was no other than the one against which he had been fighting for the last seven weeks in the neighbourhood of Athelney. The testimony of the Chronicle is conclusive on this point. “At Easter King Ælfred raised a fort at Æthelinga-igg, from which he assailed *the army* then in the seventh week he went to Ecgþryhtes-stane thence to Iglea and thence to Æthandune : and there he fought with all *the army*.” Ælfred’s whole efforts had been directed towards detaining this army in the neighbourhood of Athelney till his own forces were assembled, and now that they were ready for action he led them to attack it. It was the army led by Gothrum, which had been at Chippenham, but had since moved to meet Ubbo in the vale of Bridgwater, whither, as we have seen, Gothrum had now summoned the Danes from all parts of England to join him in attacking Ælfred whom he believed to be occupying Athelney in force.

This is further confirmed by Asser’s account of the events which followed the battle of Æthandune. The Danes, he says, after their defeat took refuge in a neighbouring fort, and when they capitulated Gothrum and the other chiefs presented themselves to Ælfred at Alre which is near Athelney. It follows that the fort, and consequently Æthandune, as well as Alre and Athelney, were all in the same neighbourhood. Here therefore, in the vale of Bridgwater, not near Westbury in Wilts, the Danes were encamped when Ælfred came upon them : in this direction did he march from Ecgþryhtes-stane, and in this direction must Iglea be sought for. It is described in the *Vita S. Neot* as a spacious plain on the skirts of a willow wood, and covered by marshes in its front. It was at the distance of a day’s march from the Rock of Egbert. It was so near the Danish camp that, by starting at dawn next day, the King was able at an early hour to gain possession of the heights commanding the enemy’s position, yet so situated that the whole English army were able to encamp there without attracting the notice of the Danes.

The plain at the foot of Glastonbury Tor answers this description in every respect. In this plain is a village called in modern maps Edgar-lea,³² but in the old map in *Dugdale's Monasticon* Egerly: the inhabitants so pronounce its name to this day. It is distant some 18 miles from the Rock of Egbert, in front of it lies Pennant moor, once a marsh, and at its rear is Pennard hill formerly no doubt covered with wood. All view of the Bridgwater valley is shut out by the ridge of Polden hill, but, from the adjoining height of the Tor, Ælfred might see Athelney and the distant fires of the Danish camp. Here Ælfred allowed his men to rest the night after their long day's march. "On the following morning at daybreak he moved his standard and came to the place called Æthandune."

At the distance of about 8 miles west from Iglea on the north side of the ridge of Polden hill, lies the village of Edington, immediately above which the hill reaches its highest elevation, and a bold promontory projects towards the south facing Athelney, and commanding an extensive view of the marshes and the vale of Bridgwater. This (not Eddington in Wilts) is the Æthandune of Asser, the site of Ælfred's most memorable victory. The possession of this promontory had formed all along the object of all his plans and wishes. He had anxiously watched it from Athelney to which it stands directly opposite, knowing what an advantage it would be to the enemy if they forestalled him in taking possession of it.³³ Having at length secured it he held the key of the position, for the Danes in the valley were now closed in on all sides by the river, the marshes, and these heights.

(32). The real name of the place I believe to be Iglea as it appears in the Chronicle, or Æcglea as in Asser, and as the country people still call it: meaning the lea or pasture of the island (*i.e.* of Glastonbury), from Ig or Aege, an island, and Leah, a pasture or field. Edgar-lea is probably a modern attempt to connect the name of the village with King Edgar, whose remains were buried at Glastonbury.

(33). "Anticipavit montem, hostibus nimis aptum si praecavissent." Walling. p. 538. "Deposita seriatim acie, proximum anticipaverunt promontorium." *Vita S. Neot.*

The question has been mooted whether Ælfred took Gothrum by surprise. The truth is that the capture of the heights in his rear was a surprise : the battle itself was not so. The Danish army was prepared for battle,³⁴ only they expected to meet their enemy in the opposite direction. The English from the heights watched their movements,³⁵ they uttered loud cries of defiance,³⁶ but waited in their strong position the enemy's approach. It was Gothrum, not Ælfred, that commenced the attack. Enraged, but not daunted, at seeing himself out-generalled, the Danish chief addressed his followers calling on them not to fear an enemy they had so repeatedly vanquished, and then placing them in order of battle, moved forward to carry the position of the English.³⁷ Many interesting incidents of the battle have been recorded by various writers. It began at noon³⁸ and lasted for several consecutive hours. It was not confined to one spot, but raged for a long distance along the ridge, the cries of the combatants being heard for miles around. Positions were alternately lost and won, and for a considerable length of time the issue seemed doubtful. Ælfred, who to his followers seemed more than mortal, was everywhere present restoring confidence and inspiring fresh courage in his men. At length Gothrum led in person a vigorous attack on the high promontory which formed the key of Ælfred's position. The Danes advanced in order, under a dense covering of their shields, supported by their archers. They were met by discharges from the English

(34). “Venis cum immenso exercitu ad locum qui dicitur Adderandun, quo juxta Paganorum immensas phalangas invenit ad bellum paratas.” Simon Dunelm.

(35). “Hinc hostium explorabant occursum.” *Vita S. Neot.*

(36). “Audacter provocabant infideles ad bellum.” Simon Dunelm.

(37). “Cum adversus antea devictos crebris exhortationibus animasset ad pugnam, protinus juxta morem suum acies disposuerunt, ad locum certaminis castra moventes.” *Vita S. Neot.*

(38). “E lendemain a hure de none

Donc sunt venuz a Edensdone.” *Norman Rhyming Chronicle*, v. 3189.

“Animoseque et diu persistens.” Asser.

“Commiserunt bellum per longa tempora diei utriusque populi, quorum voces et collisiones armorum per longa spatia terrarum auditae sunt.” Simon Dunelm.

bowmen :³⁹ then, when they neared the heights, the English soldiers sprung from the ground where they had been lying⁴⁰ and charged down on them with their spears. A hand to hand fight ensued, but the Danes in the end broke and fled. Gothrum, unable to rally them, hastened to take refuge in a neighbouring fort, and the Danes all along the range seeing the flight of their chief fled also, closely pursued by the English. Gothrum, fearing lest the victors should enter with the fugitives, caused the gates of the fortress to be closed,⁴¹ leaving many of his followers outside to the mercy of their enemies.

“ *Ælfred fought bravely,*” writes Asser, “ against the whole army of the Danes, protected by a dense covering of shields, and having after a long and stubborn conflict, by the Divine assistance, gained the victory, he overthrew the Pagans with great slaughter, and striking the fugitives he pursued them to their fort, and all that he found outside the fort, men and horses and cattle, he cut off, killing the men forthwith. Then with the whole of his army he boldly pitched his camp before the gates of the Pagan fortress. And when he had remained there fourteen days, the Pagans overcome by hunger and cold and fear, driven at last to despair, sued for peace on the following terms : That the King should chose from among them by name any number of hostages he pleased, without giving any in return ; on which terms they had never before made peace with any one. The King listened to their message, and moved by his innate mercy, took from them as many hostages as he chose to designate by name. This done, the Pagans further made oath that they would depart from his kingdom without delay. Moreover, Gothrum their King, promised to become a Christian and to receive baptism under King *Ælfred* : all which things Gothrum and his followers performed according to promise.

(39). See the account in the *Vita S. Neot.*

(40). “ *Surgentes a solo.*” Simon Dunelm.

(41). “ *Ad eam quam primo firmaverant arcem (Aluredus) eos ovanter inseguutus est.*” *Vita S. Neot.* *Firmare*, in low Latin, is *to shut*, like the Italian *fermare*, and the French *fermer*.

For after seven weeks Gothrum, the Pagan King, together with thirty of the principal men of his army, came to Ælfred at the place called Alre, and King Ælfred adopting him as his son stood sponser for him at the sacred font of baptism, and his Chrysom-leasing took place on the 8th day, at the royal villa called Wedmore. After his baptism he remained with the King twelve nights, and the King with great liberality bestowed upon him and his followers many and very valuable presents."

It remains for us to inquire where the fortress stood in which Gothrum and the Danes took refuge after their defeat. Unfortunately no writer has mentioned it by name. That it was either a fortress or walled town, and not an intrenched camp like Cynwith Castle or Bratton Castle, (which latter place is commonly adopted by those who suppose the battle to have taken place near Westbury in Wilts) is evident from two circumstances. 1st, It was provided with gates,⁴² which were shut against the victors. 2ndly, The Danish army consisting of several thousand men were able to stand a siege of a fortnight within its walls. This would have been impossible in an open camp without water. Like Odda, with his men at Cynwith, the Danes would have been obliged either to cut their way through their besiegers, or to surrender after a short delay. As regards the position of the fort, though it was in the neighbourhood of Æthandune, still it was at some little distance therefrom, for the Chronicle says that Ælfred rode after the fugitives to the fort. Moreover it was situated, not like Bratton Castle on *a hill*, but in *the plain*, for the Danes having failed to carry the heights fled to the plain. Lastly, Asser speaks of it as *the Pagan fortress* (*Paganica Arx*), an expression which seems to imply that it had served as head quarters to the Pagan army during the time they had been encamped in that neighbourhood, a surmise which derives further support from the

(42). "Ad portas paganicae arcis . . . castramentatus est." Asser.
"Ad eam quam primo firmaverant arcem, eos ovanter inseguutus est." Vita S. Neot.

fact that the English found outside it large herds of cattle and horses : the booty in all probability collected by the Danes from the country round.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I am inclined to think that Bridgwater was most probably the fort or walled town in which the Danes took refuge. It lies in the plain, and is distant about five miles from the heights above Edington, but scarcely two from the nearest point of Polden hill. There was a bridge across the Parret at this point in Ælfred's days, for it was on the high road to Ina's strong fortress at Taunton ; and a bridge had most probably existed there since the days of the Romans. A bridge generally implied a station or town of some kind. In *Doomsday* we find Brydge named amongst the possessions of Walter de Douay. From him it seems to have derived the name of Bridge-Walter or Bridgwater, as it is now called. Prior to his time it was called simply Brydge, which again seems a likely translation of "Ad Pontem," a not uncommon name for a Roman station. As in later times Bridgwater possessed a castle, so it probably was a fortified place even in the days of Ælfred. The Danes having landed at Combwich, Bridgwater would have been a convenient place for them to occupy, both as a dépôt for their plunder, and as the head-quarters of their army when preparing to attack Ælfred at Athelney, or to force their way by Taunton to Exeter. Hence, though it is not possible to speak with certainty, no writer having mentioned the fortress by name, I know not of any other place in the neighbourhood which seems more likely to have been the refuge of the Danish army than the town of Bridgwater.

Note on the Western Boundary of Somerset.

It will be necessary to offer here some remarks concerning the origin of the western boundary of Somerset as it exists in the present day, at some considerable distance beyond the Parret. The province of Damnonia under the Romans extended

from Land's End to the Parret. (See Poste's *Britannic Researches*, b. 11, c. 1.) Between this river and Glastonbury the country was full of marshes and lakes, the waters of which communicated with the sea, and were affected by the tides. These were called, in the language of the Saxons, Seo-meres, or sea lakes ; from Seo, the sea, and Mere, a lake. The inhabitants who dwelt in the islands, and in the neighbouring country, were called Seo-mere-setas, or dwellers-by-the-sea-lakes. The country itself was called Seo-mere-set or Somerset, the district of the sea-lakes. As Somerset is a name of Saxon origin, it cannot have belonged to the country prior to the Saxon invasion ; and inasmuch as Cenwealh, in the year 658, made the Parret the western boundary of his kingdom, there can be no reason for supposing that at that period any portion of the country west of the Parret bore the Saxon name of Somerset. It still remained Damnonia. As the West-Saxon kings pursued their conquests, each new portion of British territory which they occupied was annexed to the kingdom of Wessex, but it did not on that account become part of Somerset. It went to form the shire of Defnescire. Moreover, at no period that we are acquainted with, did the present boundary line of Somerset mark the limits of a Saxon occupation ; hence we cannot account for it by supposing it to have formed at one time the boundary of Wessex. We are therefore forced to seek for some other explanation. The probability is that the boundary was removed from the Parret to its present position by Ælfred himself, some years later than the period we are now treating of, in connexion with those measures which he is known to have adopted for the defence of the country against the Danes. "The shires," writes Lingard, "owe their origin to different princes, who divided the country as necessity might require or policy suggest." So it happened in this instance. By the military regulations of those days, the defence of the sea coast was intrusted in each of the maritime counties to the alderman of the county. The sea-board along the Bristol Channel, from

Porlock to Clevedon, was in a special manner open to piratical incursions, and the mouth of the Parret offered convenient anchorage for a hostile fleet. It was evidently a source of great weakness for the defence of this line of seaboard to be divided between two separate commands ; more especially as the line of demarcation between the two jurisdictions occurred at the very spot where unity of command and prompt action was most likely to be required. But in addition to these motives of public safety, the question was one of great personal interest to *Ælfred*. A large portion of his family estates was spread along this coast, on both sides of the Parret, from Carhampton to Cheddar (as we learn from his Will), and in case of invasion, these estates would be amongst the first to suffer. Thus every consideration of public policy and private interest pointed to the expediency of placing the whole of that line of coast under one command, and this necessitated such a change in the limits of the two shires as would bring the whole of the sea-board under the jurisdiction of the Alderman of Somerset. Accordingly we find that the present boundaries of Somerset extend so far west as to take in the whole of the low coast, and to include the whole of *Ælfred's* property beyond Carhampton. They also include the town of Taunton. In the days of *Ælfred* this stronghold was no longer needed to keep the Britons in check (for which purpose it had been built by Ina), but it was conveniently placed as a residence for the alderman charged with the defence of the coast along the Bristol Channel. It is therefore probable, that at the same time that the new boundaries were fixed, the head place of the shire was removed from Somerton to Taunton.

The Honor of Odcomb and Barony of Brito.

BY T. BOND.

THE extinction of manors and the minute sub-division of lands, which in recent times have resulted from the richness of the soil of Somersetshire and increasing wealth and industry, precludes the possibility of tracing the devolution of landed property in this county to the extent which has been practicable in the adjoining county of Dorset, where the work was commenced at an earlier period, and where estates have been far less broken up and sub-divided than with us. But much material has been preserved from which an early history of many of the land baronys of the county might, though with much labour, be worked out, and a series of such notices in the pages of this journal would form a valuable foundation for a general topographical history of the county. In furtherance of this idea I now offer a few particulars relating to the earliest owners of Trent, by way of addenda to Mr. Batten's interesting account of that manor (vol. xx, p. 113).

The family of Brito, Le Breton, or Bret, alluded to by Mr. Batten as possessing Trent at the Domesday Survey and for some generations afterwards, were territorial barons, and the head of their barony was Odcomb, near Montacute, in this county.

Amongst the numerous military adventurers who flocked from different parts of France to the standard of William, Duke of Normandy on the invasion of England, many came from the adjoining province of Britany, and Alain Fergant, son of Hoel, Earl of Bretagne, is said to have brought with him 5000 Bretons. Ansger, the founder of the baronial family of Brito, or Le Breton, no doubt acquired that surname from

having come from that province, and he most probably was so called to distinguish him from other Ansgers, such as Ansger Cocus, and Ansger Fouver, who are also mentioned as landowners in Somersetshire at the Domesday Survey. Ansger Brito, however, was also sometimes known by the name of Ansgerus de Montagud, but whether he was related to Drogo de Montagud, the patriarch of the distinguished house of Montacute, or whether he originally resided at Montacute adjoining Odcomb, and was so called from his place of residence, it is now impossible to ascertain. Certain it is, however, that the name of De Montagud was not long retained.

Baronial courts were usually held at the castle or mansion at which the baron or lord of the honor generally resided, and thus such residence became the head of the barony. And though the lord or baron may afterwards have removed to some other place, or have alienated his honor or barony, yet the manors or knights' fees which were held of a chief lord were considered to be so held, not simply of him personally, but of him "as of his honor of so and so," meaning the head of the barony, or the place where the courts were originally held. There can be no doubt therefore that at one time Odcomb was the chief residence of the Le Bretons in Somerset.

Ansger obtained grants of numerous lordships in Somerset, Devon, and Dorset, the aggregate of which, or of a great part of them, constituted the land barony which in the 12th century was called the barony of Walter Brito, being held by the peculiar military tenure, called tenure by barony. By the name of Ansgerus de Montagud he is mentioned in *Domesday Book* as holding of the king in chief, Prestetune in Somersetshire; and by the simple name of Ansgerus he held of the king Staford, Toriton, Bremelcom, Cadeledone, Mochelesberie, Suetetone, Duveltone, and Gatecombe, in Devonshire. He also held many manors of the Earl of Moreton, viz., Isle (Isle Brewers), Trente, Udecome (Odcomb), Aldeforde, Hundeston, Lochestone, Aisse, Torne, and Stantune in Somerset, Bocheland, Potiford, Buches-

worde, and Smitheham in Devonshire, and two manors in Cerne, and one in Sideline (Sydling) in Dorsetshire. In Devonshire he also held Bocheland, Ringedone, Filelei, Neutone, and Wadeston, of Baldwin the sheriff. By the name of Ansgerus Brito he was one of the attesting witnesses to the charter of William, Earl of Moreton, founding the Priory of Montacute, in the time of King Henry I.¹

King William Rufus confirmed to the monks of Bermondsey the gift of Walter, son of Ansger, of two hides in Estanes, and King Henry I confirmed the gift of Preston by Ansger Brito, and of two hides in Stane, given by Walter his son.² Dugdale says Ansgerus was then a knight of Wynebald de Baalun, but we have met with no original evidence of his having held lands of a superior lord of that name.

In 4 Henry II, 1158, Odcumbe was in lease from the King, and the Sheriff of Somerset accounted for 60s. for its ferm.³ In 7 Henry II, 1161, it had been restored to the family, and Roger Brito paid £20 to the King's Exchequer for fifteen knights' fees in Somerset. He was probably son of Walter Brito, but it is certain that Walter had another son named William, who held two knights' fees and a half in Sidling in Dorset, of the Abbey of Milton, in the time of Roger, Bishop of Sarum, viz., between 1102-3, 3 Henry I and 1139, 4 Stephen.⁴

Roger Brito was succeeded by a second Walter, about 11 Henry II, for in that year the latter owed 300 marks for the relief of his lands, but no portion of it seems to have been then paid. He was no doubt son of either Walter or Roger. In the following year he again accounted for the same sum, viz., for £200, and paying £26 13s. 4d. he left £173 6s. 8d. still owing, which he continued to discharge by annual instalments till 24 Henry II, when he paid £9 13s. 1d., leaving £18 0s. 4d. still due on the same account.⁵ On the assessment of the great aid levied by King Henry II, by virtue of his royal prerogative for marrying his eldest daughter Matilda to Henry

(1). Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

(2). Ibid.

(3). Lib. Rub.

(4). Lib. Nig.

(5). Mag. Rot.

the Lion, Duke of Saxony, Walter Brito, amongst the barons of Somersetshire, acknowledged that he owed to the King in chief the service of fifteen knights. The names of the knights who held the fees of him were as follows, viz., Roger Fitz Milo, Robert de Valletorta, Rafe de Lega, and William Brito, one knight's fee each; Robert de Stanton, William Fossard, and Alexander Fitz Warine, two fees each. Gilbert Torna, if he could have his whole fee, would have owed the service of two knights. Roger de Bulkewrthe, Robert Bastard, and Geoffry de Cnolton, half a fee each. In addition to which Walter himself held one knight's fee in demesne. All these, or their ancestors, were enfeoffed before the death of King Henry I, and all the fees were what were termed small fees of the Earldom of Moreton, three of which were only equal to two ordinary knights' fees.⁶ In 13 and 14 Henry II, Walter Brito owed 18s. 4d. scutage for the army in Wales, and in the following year, by the name of "Walter Brit," he paid £6 5s. 0d., for fifteen knights' fees of the honor of Moreton. In the 18 Henry II, he accounted for £9 7s. 6d. for fifteen fees then described as fifteen fees of Montacute. In 22 Henry II he accounted for 40 marks for an amercement, and the following year he had his quietus for the same. In 24 Henry II he was still paying off the debt of his relief as above mentioned, and he owed £18 0s. 4d. for the scutage of Ireland.⁷ After this his condition and that of his family are for some years rather involved in obscurity. In 25 Henry II his debt of £17 0s. 3d. for the residue of his relief, and 18s. 9d. for the scutage of Ireland, are still entered in the sheriff's roll, but nothing seems to have been paid. The sheriff, however, accounted for £7 15s. 8d. for corn sold from the land of Walter Briton, and it is thus evident that his barony must then have been in the hands of the Crown. He may therefore either have lately died leaving a son a minor, or else he may have committed a forfeiture for which his barony had escheated to

(6). Lib. Niger.

(7). Mag. Rot.

the King ; or possibly he may have been found “*non compos mentis.*” Whichever was the case his lands were soon after acquired by William Torel, in whose hands they are found in 28 Henry II, and who then and in the three succeeding years accounts for the debt of Walter Brito, but nothing is entered as paid.⁸ This William Torel seems to have been identical with William Torel, of Torels Hall, in Little Thurrock in Essex, an estate which continued in his family from the time of Henry II to that of Henry VIII.⁹ In 32 Henry II, William Torel is said to be dead, and the King again had the lands of Walter Brito in his own hands. He continued to hold them till 7 Richard I when we again find them in possession of a Walter Brito, who then owed £13 6s. 11d. for his relief. He paid £3 3s. 4d., and left £10 3s. 7d. still owing. The smallness of this sum, as compared with the £200 which was due for the relief of the same lands in 11 Henry II, and its so nearly amounting to the sum still remaining due on the payment of the last instalment in 25 Henry II, affords some ground for conjecture that it was in reality a part of the same debt, and if so Walter Brito may have forfeited his barony and been restored to it in 7 Richard I. But on the other hand it is seen by evidence referred to by Mr. Batten that Walter Croc had both a grandfather and an uncle named Walter Brito, which is consistent with a supposition that the Walter of 7 Richard I was son and heir of the Walter of 25 Henry II, and brother of the mother of Walter Croc.

During the period that the barony was in the King’s hands the sheriff, in 32 Henry II, received and accounted for the issues of the lands which were William Torels, of the fee of Walter Briton, and in 33 Henry II, in his account of the scutage of the barons of Dorset and Somerset who did not accompany the King in his expedition to Galwei, he enters £9 7s. 6d. for the scutage of fifteen knights’ fees of Moreton, of the honour which was Walter Brits (*qui fuit Walteri Brit*). In the same and

(8). Mag. Rot.

(9). Morant’s *History of Essex*, I. 227.

following years on the tallage of the King's demesnes and of the lands which were in the King's hands in Somerset, he reckons £3 9s. 1d. of Yla and of Odecumba, which were William Torel's.¹⁰

In 8 and 9 Richard I, Walter Brito continued to discharge his debt for the relief, but the latter is the last time he is noticed, and he therefore no doubt died about this time. After the death of the last named Walter Brito the inheritance of the barony fell to his coheirs, viz., Walter Croc his nephew and Richard de Hescecumbe or Hattecumbe, which latter was probably son of Alice Brito, sister of Annora, mother of Walter Croc. The descendants of this Richard seem to have assumed the surname of Bret, or else their heiress married a person of that name, for Stephen le Bret was the descendant and heir of Alice, daughter of Walter Brito, and on an inquisition taken after the death of Johanna Bruere, in 49 Henry III, the jury say that she held Odecumbe, Yle, and Milverton in dower. They know of no heirs of the reversion of the manors of Odecumbe and Yle, except the Brets, who had been of Hescecumbe (*qui fuerant de Hescecumbe*) which manors were alienated by the power of Sir William Bruyere the elder (*per potestatem Domini Willielmi Bruyere veterioris*).¹¹ This expression shows that the alienation was by no means voluntary on the part of the coheirs, and it is quite consistent with the accounts we read elsewhere of the rapacity and tyranny of this powerful and wealthy noble. Amongst the fees of William Briwerr of the honour of Odecumbe in Somerset, were Bocland, Putteford, Bulkeworth, Sutton, and Uppecoth in Devonshire.¹² In 12 and 13 John, Richard Briwere held fifteen fees of the land of Walter Brito, of the honor of Hattecomb (Odcomb).¹³

As regards the branch of the family of Brito which settled in Dorsetshire, it is related in the Black Book of the Exchequer that during a vacancy of the Abbey of Milton the custody of

(10). Mag. Rot.

(11). Inq. p.m. 49 Henry III nc. 5.

(12). Testa de Nevill.

(13). Lib. Rub.

the abbey was committed by Henry I to Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, for five years. During that period the bishop converted a tenement, consisting of two hides and a half, and held by William, son of Walter, from a "feodum censuale" into a knight's fee, but it was afterwards restored to its original tenure, and it so continued in 12 Henry II, when it was held by William Brito, the heir of William, son of Walter. A "feodum censuale" differed materially in its nature from a knight's fee, for while the latter owed military service, the former was merely charged with an annual tax or quit rent to the church, or monastery, and sometimes certain other non-military services, in return for which the owner was entitled to the protection of the church. The fee just mentioned was probably at Sydling St. Nicholas,¹⁴ but the manor in Sydelince, which was held by Ansgerus at the Domesday Survey, seems to have been in Upsidling, for on the collection of the aid granted on the marriage of Isabella, sister of King Henry III, to the Emperor Frederic II, the collectors account for 16s. 8d. for one fee of Morton, in Upsitling, of the fee of Odecumbe.¹⁵ William Briton, of Sidlis (Sydling), died about 2 John, for in that year Brian de Insula gave to the King 120 marks, and one palfrey to have the custody and marriage of his children, with all their inheritance.¹⁶ Thomas Brito was his son and heir, and on the partition of the knight's fees of William Briwere amongst his co-heirs, one fee in Sidelich, co. Dorset, then held by Thomas le Breton, was allotted to Margaret de Assertis.¹⁷ Thomas le Breton married Alice, one of the co-heirs of Brian de Insula, and had for her fortune the manor of Stardeclive in the county of Derby.¹⁸

The Brets of Sandford Bret, co. Somerset, were probably a branch of this family. Collinson (III 543) shows them to have

(14). See further notice of this in Hutchins's *History of Dorset*, 3rd edition, vol. iv. p. 496, communicated by the writer of the present article.

(15). Testa de Nevill. (16). Rot. de oblatis.

(17). Testa de Nevill.

(18.) Fin. Conc. Devers Cos., 19 Henry III, no. 65.

been descended from Simon Bret, whom he considers to be identical with Simon Brito, who in 12 Henry II, held half a fee of William de Moun. There is no doubt that the Brets of Maperton in Dorsetshire were of the same family as this Simon, for, in 9 Richard I, Henry le Bret owed in Dorset 100s. to have right respecting one fee in Maperton against Simon le Bret.¹⁹ Collinson says that Simon Bret had a son Richard whom he considers identical with Richard Brito, notorious as one of the murderers of Thomas a' Becket. If such is the case it is remarkable that, of the four knights who participated in that foul deed, three of them, viz., Reginald Fitz Urse, Hugh de Morevil, and Richard Brito were connected with Somersetshire. But I have met with no contemporary evidence to connect Richard Brito with this family or this county. The Pipe Rolls are silent respecting him.

Contemporary with the Britos of Somerset, other distinguished families of the same name flourished in Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

(19). Mag. Rot.

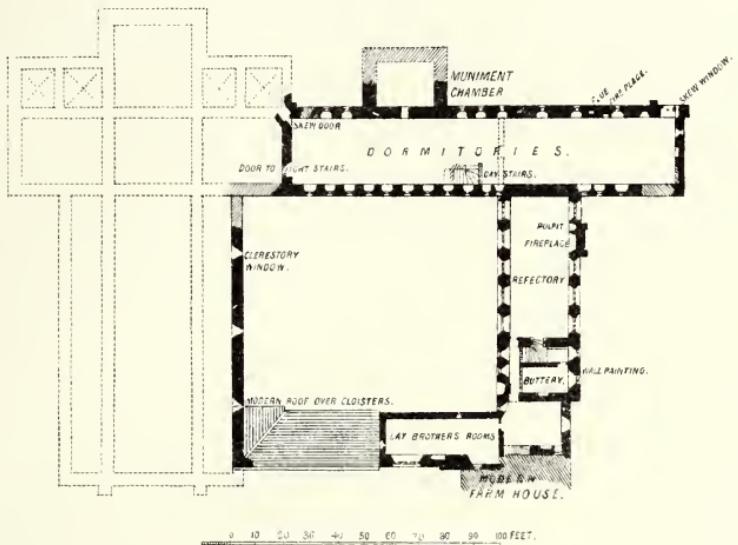
St. Mary's Abbey, Old Cleeve:

An account of some recent discoveries made at Cleeve Abbey.

BY MR. C. H. SAMSON.

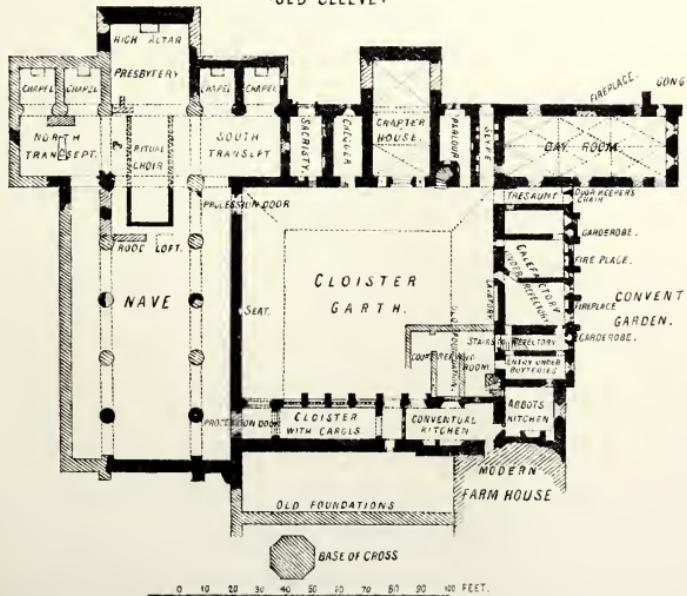
I ACCOMPANIED the Rev. Mackenzie Walcott, Precentor of Chichester, to these interesting ruins for the purpose of making a plan of what he considered to be the remains of the church, which until now has been a matter of doubt to many who have visited the spot and written upon the subject. The owner of the property, G. F. Luttrell, Esq., of Dunster Castle, who takes the keenest interest in the matter, at once placed a gang of labourers at our disposal, and in a short time the most important parts of the foundations of walls and columns were exposed to view. I send with this communication a plan of the whole of the buildings, both ecclesiastical and domestic, and the following explanation taken principally from the notes of Mr. Walcott. The church was 161 feet in length, of the purest Cistercian type, consisting of a nave of five bays, with aisles 100 feet by 58 feet 6 inches, a central tower, a transept of 95 feet by 40 feet, with two eastern chapels 13 feet 6 inches square in each wing, and a short eastern presbytery 29 feet by 17 feet without aisles. The pillars of the nave were round; a beautifully-moulded base nearly perfect was discovered in place, and, like the rest of the stonework found, there was no trace whatever to be seen on the surface of the ground of what lay beneath; here and there were indications of masonry, but on examination they only proved to be masses of fallen walls; portions of three other bases were found in their places. The aisles were 11 feet wide, and the central alley 30 feet. A portion of the foundations can be seen on which the stalls and rood

:PLAN OF S: MARY'S CISTERCIAN ABBEY:
:OLD CLEEVE:



:PLAN OF S: MARY'S CISTERCIAN ABBEY.
:OLD CLEEVE:

CEMETERY.



screen stood, the space enclosed is 14 feet by 12 feet 6 inches, and is partly covered with encaustic tiles, evidently on the proper floor level, although not as they were originally laid; a portion of this space is under a huge piece of fallen wall. A large quantity of encaustic tile paving has been found, either dug up out of the earth or built into modern walls, as well as several large patches lying in their original place undisturbed, and in beautiful patterns; the tiles are richly ornamented. There seem to be as many as fifty varieties—heraldic, geometric, and fanciful designs in various colours, black and white, red and white, glazed green, and yellow. Among the heraldic tiles are the arms of Mohun, Clare, Raleigh, Poyntz, Trivet or Treble, Sydenham, Bardolf, Cary, Peverell, Fitz Nicholas, Beauchamp, Furneaux, Palton, Boteler, Montacute, Audley, Aylesford, and Brideport, besides three other arms unknown. Many of these families held lands in the county, and under the Mohuns. Some of the tiles bear capital letters, and nearly the whole alphabet has been found. Many of the same patterns were found in the old chancel of Dunster church. The walls of the south aisle of nave remain, with traces of the two processional doors, and three windows about three feet wide between the inside splays, and about fourteen feet from the floor level; they are at present walled up, and no traces of the outer faces are visible. The west and south walls of the transept also are standing, with a portion of an eastern aisle chapel, 13 feet 6 inches square, with part of a piscina, remains of a vaulting rib, and the foundations of the altar; there are remains of clerestory windows in the south wing. The western jamb of the eastern cloister door remains, with a portion of the outer arch, and the springer of the inner arch. The south wall of transept shows the central door into the sacristy. The cloistral and domestic buildings have already been the subject of an elaborate paper by the late Rev. F. Warre. I need, therefore, merely describe the subsequent discoveries made while clearing out some of the rubbish which has accumulated during the time the buildings

were used as a farm homestead, which is now, happily, no longer the case ; in a short time Mr. Luttrell intends to remove the modern walling, and other unsightly innovations, now no more needed for cattle sheds. On the east side of the cloister garth, which is 78 feet square, is the dormitory on the upper storey ; it is a magnificent room, 137 feet 6 inches by 24 feet 5 inches. The north wall contains the door opening on the night stairs to the transept, and a skew door probably for watching the church lights. In the eastern wall at the south end is a remarkably curious doorway ; it is 6 feet wide, the jambs are reversed, and a socket hole under the point of the head shows that the doors were hung upon a centre pivot, and opened half inwards and half outwards. The substructure includes—(1) The sacristy, 22 feet 4 inches by 12 feet, with a round window, the hood or label moulding only remaining ; a large double aumbry in the west wall, which had shelves and wooden doors ; an aumbry and water drain on the south, and to the north another locker and the door into the transept. (2) A chamber, 22 feet by 10 feet 6 inches, lighted by a single lancet ; the original large entrance arch has been filled in with one of smaller dimensions. (3) The chapter-house vaulted in two spans, on which traces of wall-painting are visible, some original tile paving remains on the floor, as well as the foundations of seats along the walls ; the foundations of the eastern end are now laid bare, which shows the whole building to have been 46 feet 10 inches in length, by 21 feet 4 inches in width. (4) Day stairs to dormitory. (5) Parlour, 16 feet 11 inches by 11 feet 7 inches, lighted by a double lancet window, and having a locker on the north, and a deep recessed arch at the side of the door. (6) The slype to the cemetery, 29 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 2 inches, with two double aumbries in the north, and a pair with a door in the south wall, opening into the (7) day or common room, 60 feet by 22 feet 6 inches ; it was vaulted in two spans, with a central arcade resting upon three pillars. In the east and west walls at the south end are two doorways opposite to each other, the original

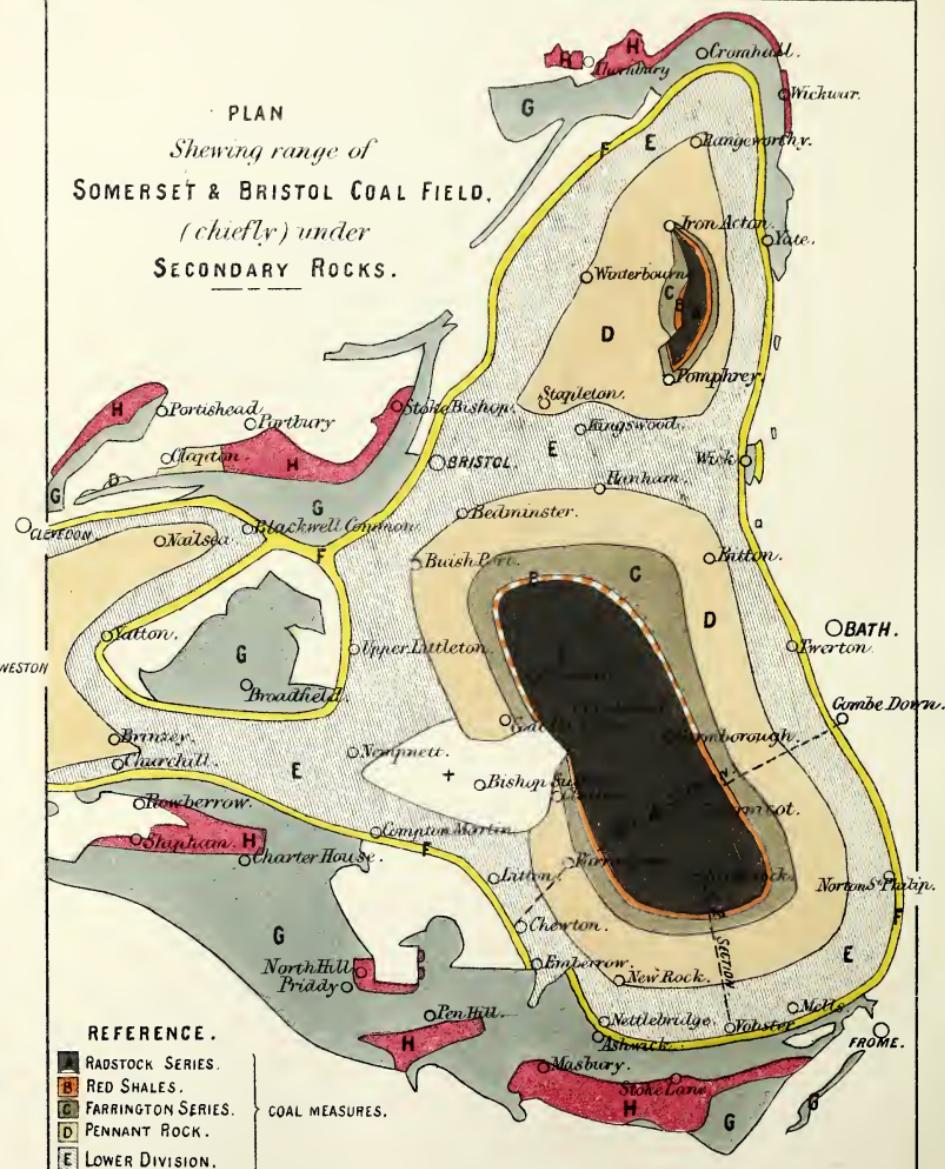
floor level is several feet deeper than the present, the doorways are at least seven feet high. The south side of the garth is principally occupied by the refectory over an Early English substructure, which includes (1) the tresaunt to the conventional garden, 30 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 3 inches, with a south door and loop, and bench where the porter of the cloister sat. (2) The calefactory, divided into three chambers, the first, 22 feet 8 inches by 8 feet, contains a window with seats and a garderobe. The central compartment, 22 feet 2 inches by 15 feet 4 inches, is entered by its special door, and also by a skew door pierced in the partition wall on the west, and adjoining the entrance to the next chamber, 22 feet 2 inches by 16 feet 5 inches. Each of these two divisions has a fireplace set between two windows. At the south-west corner there is a door opening into a passage, 6 feet 6 inches wide, under the hall stairs, which contains a window and garderobe. Next is the (3) entry to abbot's kitchen, with a door opening on the lower steps of the hall stairs, and having a corresponding door opposite to it. Outside the refectory stairs are traces of a large porch, with a gabled front over the door ; and a second building forming a serving-room, with a five-light window of timber work, which connected it with the conventional kitchen. The foundations of a wall about 3 feet thick were also laid bare running east and west about 10 feet from the face of main building. The western alley of the cloister shows a buttressed front, with an upper range of chambers occupied by the converts or lay brothers, much mutilated. It is pierced by a gateway porch with woodwork, retaining some carving on the south, and a panelled perpendicular arch on the north. Southward of it is the conventional kitchen, 33 feet 11 inches by 13 feet 6 inches. The arches which enclosed its window remain ; they resemble the west side, which were filled with perpendicular windows of four lights, and portions of this tracery remain ; these four bays formed carols for study ; at the north end is a straining arch. The north alley has been entirely swept away. In the centre of the south wall of nave is

a trefoil-headed seat for the abbot or claustral prior in cloister time. The foundations of another wall 4 feet 2 inches thick were found under the surface of the ground running north and south, on the west side of cloister walls it is 22 feet 4 inches from the west wall and might have formed the "Domus Conversorum." The remains of the octagonal base of a cross are visible and it is curious to observe a huge sycamore tree growing and flourishing exactly in the centre of it.

Several small pieces of painted glass have been dug up out of the rubbish. On the east wall of buttery are traces of wall painting in distemper representing three human figures with monsters and fishes.



PLAN
Shewing range of
SOMERSET & BRISTOL COAL FIELD,
(chiefly) under
SECONDARY ROCKS.



REFERENCE.

A	RADSTOCK SERIES.
B	RED SHALEs.
C	FARRINGTON SERIES.
D	PENNANT ROCK.
E	LOWER DIVISION.
F	MILLSTONE GRT.
G	CARBONIFEROUS LIMESTONE.
H	OLD RED SANDSTONE.
+	UNCERTAIN GROUND.

COAL MEASURES.

WELLS.

SHEPTON MALLET.

Notes on the
**Physical Geology of the Carboniferous Strata of
Somersetshire, and associated formations.**

BY J. MC MURTRIE, F.G.S.

SOME ten years ago I had the honour of submitting to this Society, at the Shepton Mallet meeting, a short descriptive paper "On the Somersetshire Coal Field." I then endeavoured to lay before the Society a perpendicular section of the coal measures, and of their various subdivisions as they may probably exist in the centre of the Somersetshire basin, from the secondary rocks by which they are overlaid to the Mountain Limestone on which they rest. A longer residence in the district might now enable me to furnish similar information in a more complete form ; but it is not my intention to go over old ground more than may be necessary to explain the present paper, the primary object of which is to point out certain remarkable facts in physical geology peculiar to the district in which the Society has met on the present occasion.

i. *Description of strata.*

In order at the outset to convey a general idea of the rocks with which we have to deal, I would direct your attention to a section of strata from Bath to Chewton Mendip, which, as it crosses the entire coal field from east to west, may be considered a typical section of the district generally.

You will observe it takes in a wide range geologically, from the Great Oolite in the neighbourhood of Bath, to the Old Red Sandstone, of which we find numerous outcrops in the centre of the Mendip range ; and it would be difficult to select another district of country in which within so short a distance so many different formations may be closely studied. Whether

neighbourhood of Radford, from which the beds rise eastward towards Bath and westward towards the Mendips.

From north to south the same general outline is maintained, but the district has been divided into subordinate basins by transverse ridges which intersect the district. The most important of these is the great Kingswood anticlinal which crosses the entire coal field from east to west, forming a great natural division between the counties of Somerset and Gloucester. Another division line has been caused by the Farmborough fault which crosses the district from east to west, a little to the north of Camerton, Timsbury, High Littleton, and Clutton, separating the Somersetshire area into the basins of Pensford and Radstock.

With regard to this north and south section it is necessary to explain that while the Gloucestershire and Radstock portions are practically correct, considerable uncertainty exists as to the intermediate Pensford area which for many years has been little explored. The section shows one view which has been taken, but it is fairly open to controversy, and I am aware that Professor Prestwich entertains a different opinion. The prevailing idea locally is that the Farmborough fault to which I have referred is an upthrow north of 600 feet, throwing out the Radstock series in the district immediately to the north of the fault. This opinion has been founded on the result of a trial shaft sunk many years ago at Farmborough, which was supposed to have passed through traces of the Radstock series in the upper part of the pit, and then to have proved the Farrington group in an irregular and subdivided condition.

Professor Prestwich, however, is of opinion that the local view is inaccurate, and that more probably the Farmborough fault is a downthrow north, bringing in certain coal strata overlying the Radstock group.

Both opinions are fairly open to argument, but of this I have comparatively little doubt, that whether the Radstock series has been thrown out at Farmborough, as represented in the section,

or thrown down to a profound depth as suggested by Professor Prestwich, it reappears again in the vale of Pensford, although probably in a deteriorated form.

Having thus explained the general sectional structure of the district, I would now direct your attention to the geographical outline of the coal formation, which the diagram now shewn will explain more briefly and accurately than I could possibly do in words. You will observe that it leaves out those formations by which the coal measures have been overlaid, and that it endeavours to shew the different subdivisions of those measures together with the foundation rocks on which they rest, as they may have appeared before the earliest beds of the New Red Sandstone began to be deposited. Speaking generally the coal field extends from Cromhall on the north to the Mendips on the south, a distance of 26 miles, and from Bath on the east to Bristol on the west, a distance of 12 miles, to which we must add the outlying basin of Nailsea, the extent of which is rather uncertain. It embraces in all an area of 238 square miles, and in the report of the Royal Coal Commission it has been estimated to contain 6104 millions of tons of coal, a quantity amply sufficient to supply the wants of future generations.

IV. *The Mendip upheaval.*

It will at once be seen from the map and sections that the outline of the district we have been describing is largely due to the upheaval of the Mendip range on the south and west, and to certain other elevations of Mountain Limestone probably of similar age which form the margin of the coal basin further north.

The origin of the Mendip upheaval has given rise to much discussion. Some years ago, Mr. Moore having discovered in the neighbourhood of Stoke Lane the presence of an extensive basaltic dyke, originated the theory that the elevation of those hills was due to volcanic origin ; but by other authorities the Mendip range has been attributed to the effect of contraction

of the earth's crust. Whether the dyke referred to is to be regarded as the primary cause, or only a result of the Mendip upheaval,—whether it was the motive power which elevated some 20,000 feet of stratified rock into what must then have formed an elevated mountain range, or merely rushed in to fill a chasm produced by other forces, I must leave to higher authorities to decide. But whatever may be the true theory, much interest will ever attach to Mr. Moore's discovery, and we cannot fail to be impressed with the magnitude of the force, whatever its origin, which produced such marvellous physical results over a district of country extending from Frome to the Bristol Channel, and a continuation of which may be found on the Pembrokeshire coast.

Looking at the Mendips as we see them now, rising comparatively little above the level of the surrounding country, we can hardly realise the appearance they must have presented at the close of the coal measure period. From Weston to Frome, and probably far to the eastward, they must have attained an elevation outrivalling our highest mountain ranges, an elevation reaching far into the region of perpetual snow.

v. *Effect on the adjacent coal field; folded strata of the Vobster valley.*

Excepting the great thickness of strata upheaved, there is nothing very unusual in the structure of the Mendip Hills themselves. Between Weston and Emborow, it is true, there are subordinate to the principal range certain cross ridges, undulations, and contrary dips, which make the geology of that portion of the hills rather confusing, but from Ashwick to Frome their structure is of the simplest possible kind. They take the form of a true anticlinal, consisting of a central mass of Trap and Old Red Sandstone, from which the Mountain Limestone dips southwards towards Bruton and north-east towards Bath. It may be observed, however, that there is a marked difference in the angles of elevation on the two sides of the ridge, those on the north being so steep as in places to be almost perpen-

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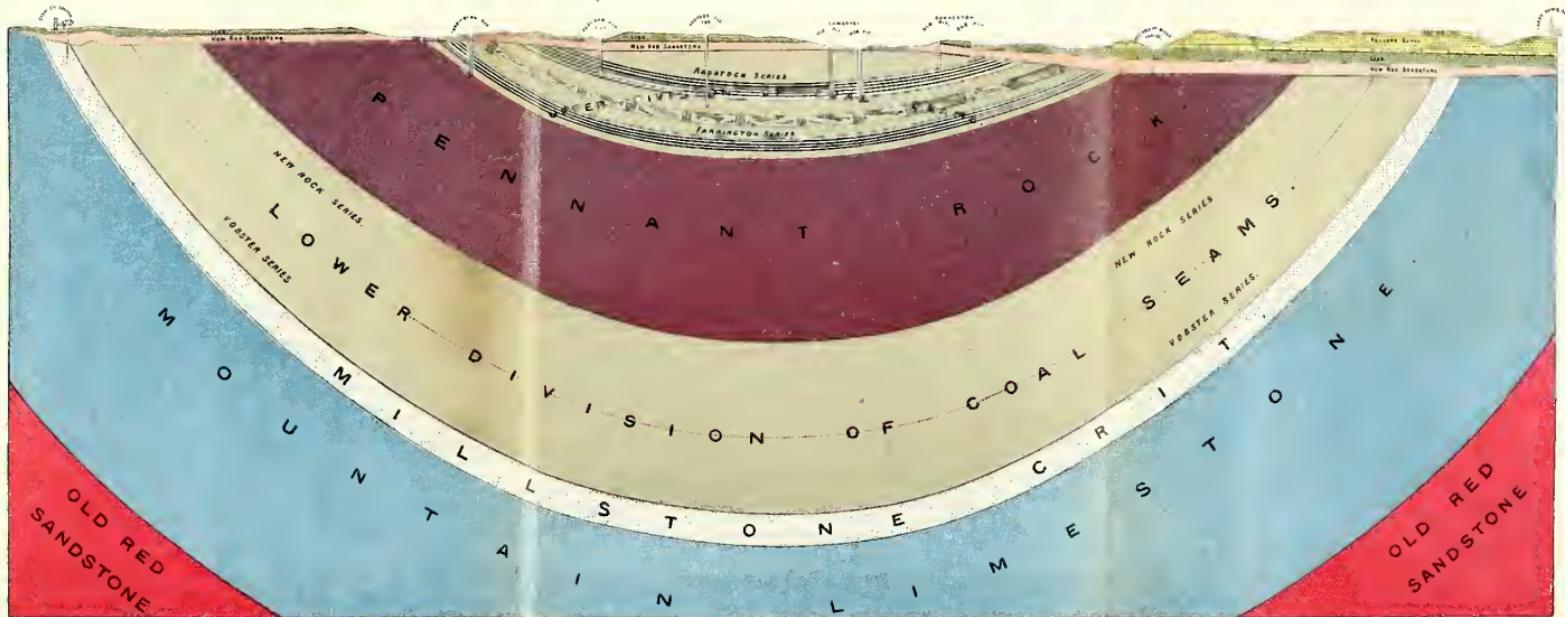
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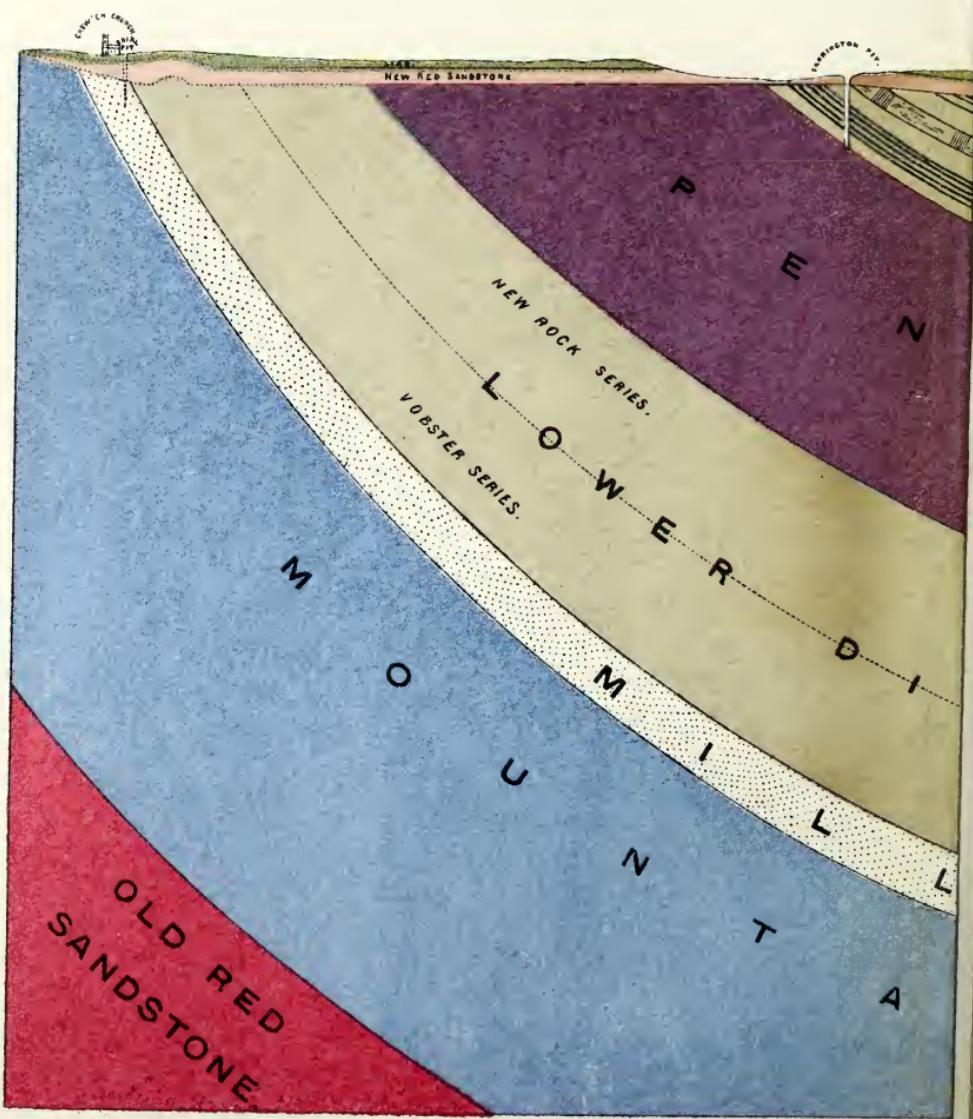
SECTION FROM CHEWTON TO COMBE DOWN NEAR BATH.

HORIZONTAL SCALE 5000 FEET TO 1. INCH : VERTICAL SCALE 2000 FEET TO 1. INCH.

(Prepared for Royal Coal Commission, 1868.)



SECTION F
HORIZONTAL SCALE



dicular, while those on the south side do not usually exceed 35 degrees, and this gentle inclination on the southern side deserves attention in connexion with mining prospects south of the Mendip. It is evident that the higher angles on the northern side have had a very remarkable effect upon the adjoining coal field, where we find evidence of by far the most striking phenomena connected with the Mendip upheaval. The area chiefly affected lies between Nettlebridge and Mells, where it is abundantly evident that during the Mendip upheaval the coal strata have not only been raised to a vertical position, but have actually been folded back upon themselves, so that instead of dipping northwards from the Mendip hills they now dip southwards towards that range. This extraordinary inversion of strata seems to begin at Nettlebridge, near the turnpike road from Bath to Shepton Mallet, for to the westward of that road the beds dip northward in conformity with the Mountain Limestone at an angle of from 30 to 40 degrees, but in proceeding eastward the dip gradually increases until the strata become perpendicular, and then fold completely over as shewn in the sections from Vobster to Radstock.

Between Pitcot, where the strata were discovered to be upright, and Mells new colliery, a distance of four miles, the country has been well proved by pits sunk at short distances apart, and there is no exception to the inversion of strata to which I have referred. How much farther eastwards it may continue it is difficult to say, but I am of opinion that it may be found to terminate not far to the east of Mells village. I arrive at this conclusion from a consideration of the angles of inclination prevailing in the Mendip hills. Between Binegar and Nettlebridge, where the dip of the Mountain Limestone does not usually exceed 30 to 40 degrees, the coal measures adjoining have a corresponding dip in the right direction, but between Nettlebridge and Mells, where we find in the limestone angles of 60 to 85 degrees, the adjacent coal measures have been uniformly inverted as already described ; and as the angles of

inclination in the limestone eastward of Mells do not exceed from 30 to 50 degrees, I am led to the conclusion that in that direction the coal measures may gradually recover their natural position.

In all probability this abnormal dip may not continue to any very great depth. The lowest point at which it has yet been proved is at the Mackintosh pit, Newbury colliery, where, at a depth of 300 fathoms, the strata have been found dipping southwards at an angle of 45 degrees. How much farther this may continue we have no means of knowing, but there must be a point not far beneath where the strata resume the true northern inclination.

The strata in which the inversion is chiefly visible are the lower division of coal measures and the Pennant rock. It is not improbable that it may have extended to certain parts of the upper division, but so far this has not been proved. The effect of the fold is very different in the various beds. The Pennant rock and the upper part of the lower division have taken little harm from the disturbances to which they have been subjected : they are perfectly free from confusion although turned completely upside down ; but the lower part of the division, which consists of very tender shales, has been twisted and contorted and broken up to an extent very difficult to realise.

Associated with these up-turned coal measures and resting upon them there occur at Luckington and Vobster certain isolated masses of Mountain Limestone which must not be overlooked. As I hope shortly to communicate elsewhere my views on this part of the subject, I will only say in passing that these limestones must in some way have come over from the Mendips, and they may possibly furnish evidence of inversion in the denuded portions of the Mendip range, although we have no proof of it in the parts which remain.

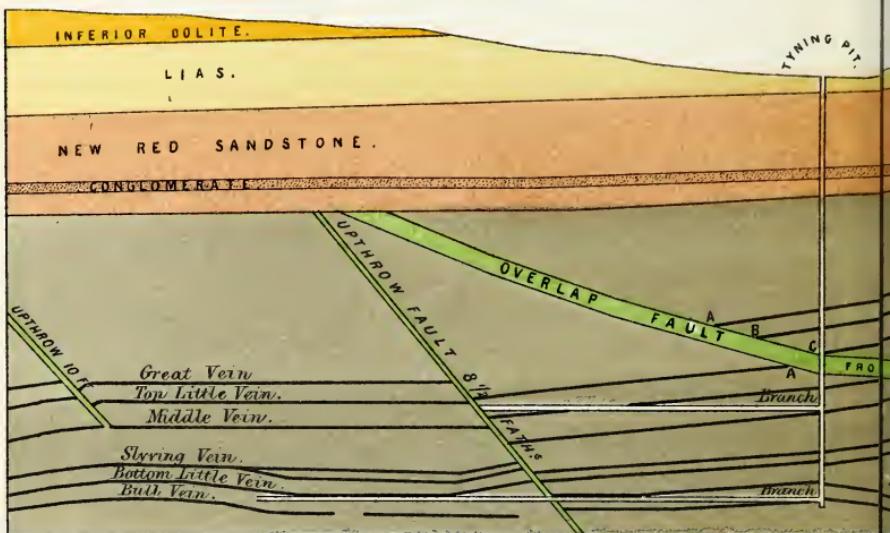
VI. *The overlap or slide fault of Radstock.*

Another remarkable feature in the geology of the district is the occurrence at Radstock and its vicinity of the great overlap

(SECTIONS)

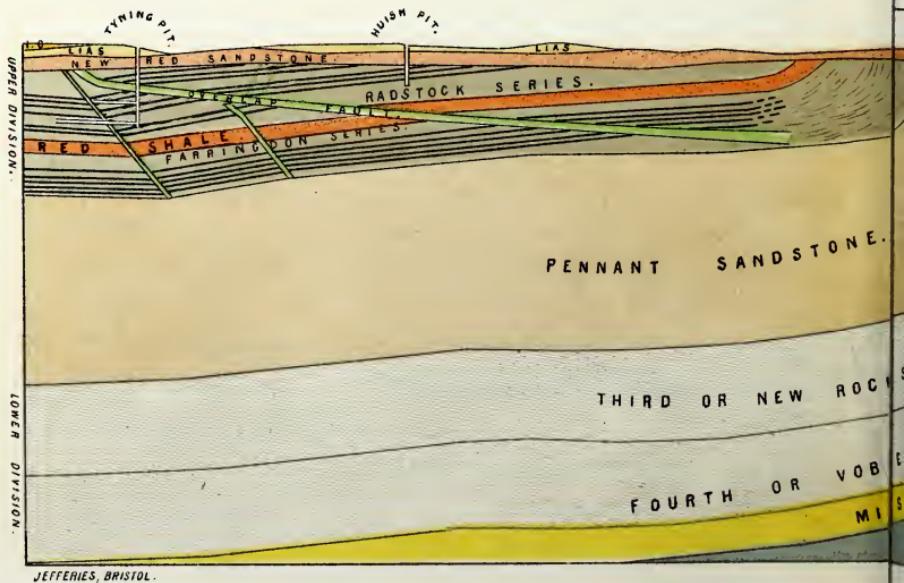
SECTION OF UPPER SERIES OF COAL

SCALE 40 FEET



SECTION OF STRATA FROM A POINT 616 YARDS

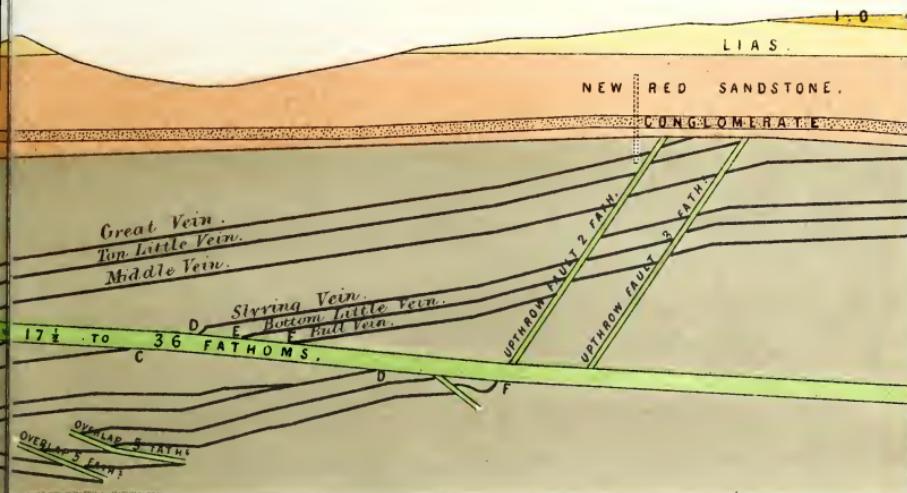
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V. 2.)

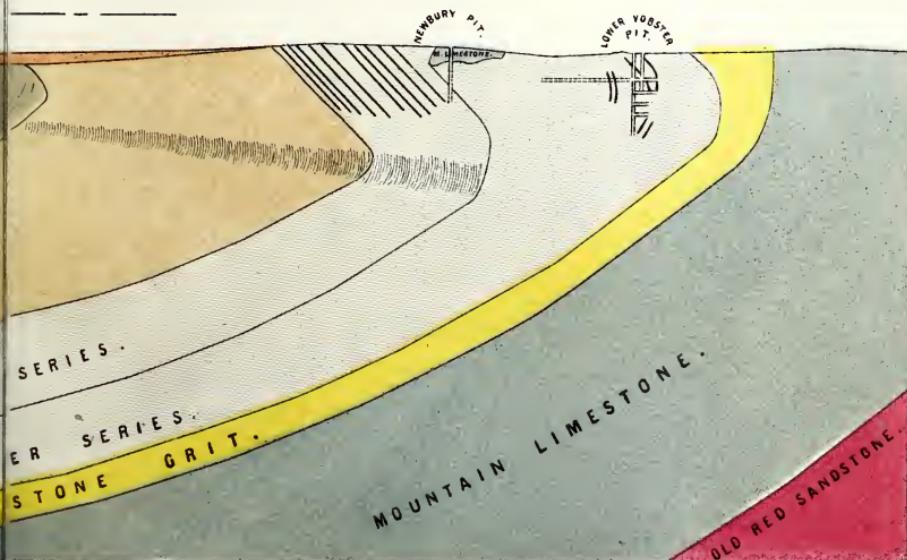
EASURES UNDER RADSTOCK MANOR.

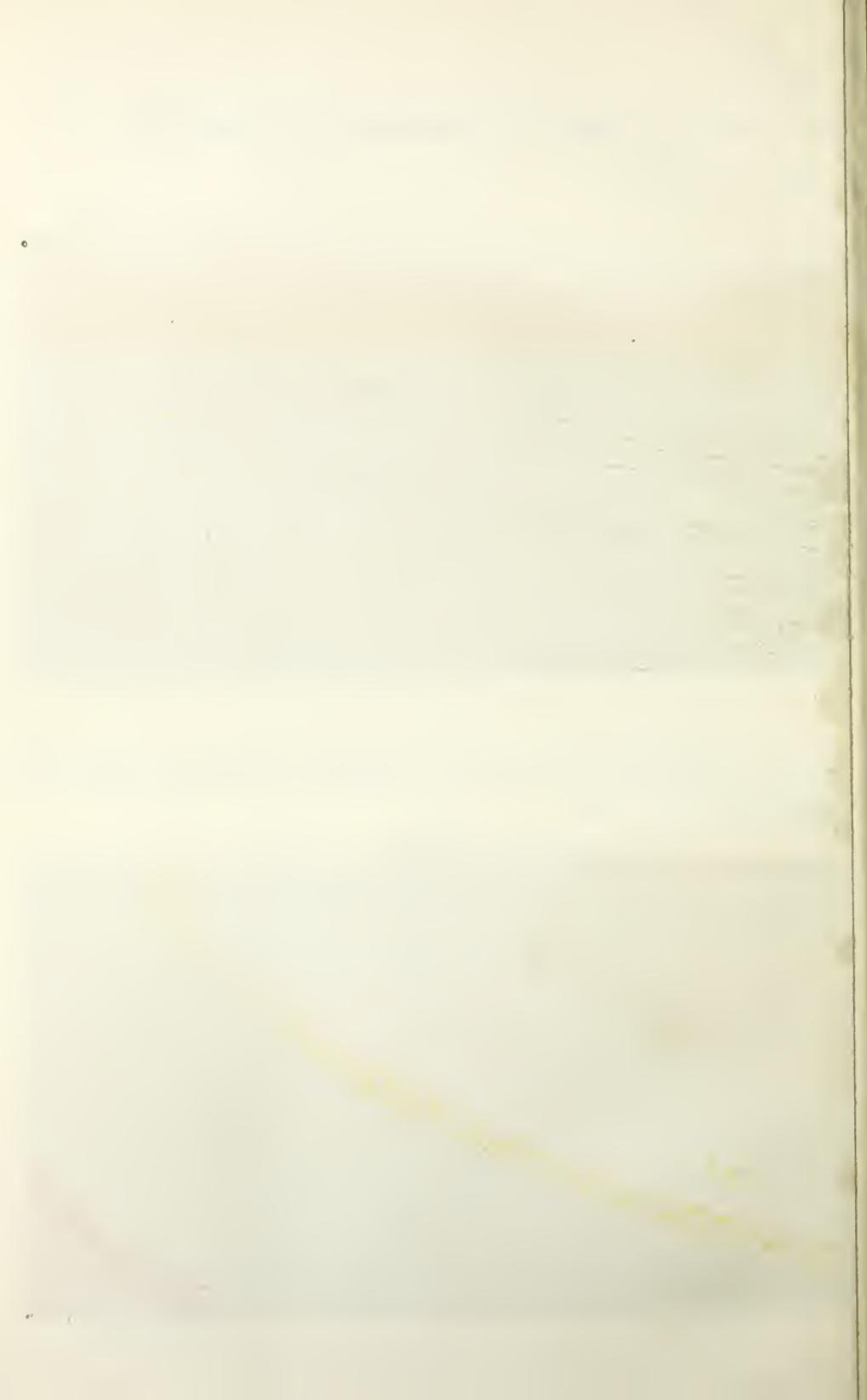
$\frac{1}{12}$ OF AN INCH.



NORTH OF TYNING PIT, RADSTOCK TO VOBSTER.

AINS TO $\frac{1}{12}$ OF AN INCH.





or slide fault, which was discovered many years ago in working the Radstock series of veins.

The section of strata across the manor from north to south, passing through Tyning pit, shews the effect of the fault upon the upper group of veins. The strata above the line of fracture present every appearance of having been thrust bodily forward, so that the different veins now overlap each other as shown in the section, the letters *A A*, *B B*, &c., indicating those beds which were originally joined. The greatest extent of overlap hitherto proved occurs in the lower veins of the Radstock group and measures 330 yards, but the upper seams of the same series shew a much less amount of overlap, not exceeding 120 yards, from which an important inference may possibly be drawn.

The fault, which has been traced for more than a mile, shews a well defined line of fracture, the ends of the beds above it being turned slightly downwards, and those beneath having an upward curve where they are in contact with it, the leader or line of fracture consisting of crushed and broken coal measure materials of all kinds. The range of the fault is parallel with the Mendips, and although it has not hitherto been traced nearer to those hills than a distance of four miles, yet I have ventured to attribute its origin to the effect of that upheaval.

My views on the subject will be best explained by a section I have constructed from Vobster to Tyning pit, Radstock, shewing the almost vertical limestone on the northern slope of the Mendip hills and the folded coal measures adjoining, the lateral pressure produced by them having in my opinion caused the overlap fault.

There is to say the least of it a remarkable parallelism connected with the facts I have put before you. Where the dip in the Mendips is only 30 or 40 degrees, the adjacent coal measures have not been inverted, and in the interior of the basin we have no trace of the overlap fault; but where the Mendips shew angles of from 70° to 90° , we have exactly coincident with those steep dips, the overturned coal measures at the edge of the basin

and the overlap fault in the interior. This cannot I think be regarded as a mere coincidence, and it leads to the conclusion that the various phenomena I have been describing are only separate links in one great physical disturbance.

VII. Denudation.

Professor Ramsay long ago pointed out, and a very cursory examination of the sections now submitted and of the ordnance maps will be sufficient to shew, that between the close of the coal measure period, and the deposition of the New Red Sandstone, an enormous amount of denudation must have taken place. In the centre of the basin, where we find the conglomerate beds of the New Red resting on the higher beds of the coal measures, we have no means of measuring the amount of this denudation, and it cannot there have been so extensive, but in proceeding southwards and westwards we find the conglomerate resting unconformably on the upturned edges of the Pennant, the lower division of coal measures, the Mountain Limestone and even upon the Old Red Sandstone itself, shewing that in the Mendip country an enormous thickness of strata must have been washed away. The extent of this denudation we cannot measure accurately, but where (as in the district between Green Oare and Priddy) the Dolomitic Conglomerate rests directly upon the Old Red, the intermediate strata removed may be estimated as follows :—

	FEET.
Coal measures	8,000
Millstone Grit	500
Mountain Limestone say	4,000
	<hr/>
	12,500
Old Red Sandstone, a portion only, say	3,500
	<hr/>
Total	16,000
	<hr/>

The effect of this denudation was to plane down a previously mountainous country to a comparatively level surface, on which the coal measures were afterwards deposited.

So far we have spoken only of the denudation prior to the secondary period, but even the secondary rocks in this district shew a considerable amount of denudation, the valleys which abound being with hardly an exception due to that cause.

VIII. *Remarks on areas outside the known coal field.*

So far we have been dealing with a district which has been carefully investigated and the principal facts of which have been well established, but it is surrounded on all sides by areas of which we know comparatively little, and which have long been the subject of curious speculation.

Sir Roderick Murchison, Mr. Godwin Austin, and Professor Prestwich have all devoted a good deal of attention to the question, and meeting as we do this evening just outside the margin of the known coal field, it may form a very proper subject of inquiry as to the unknown district which lies beyond.

Without expressing an opinion on the northern part of the field to which I have not devoted much attention, I think a great deal may be said about the district south and east of Frome. If we look at the great thickness of coal strata along the northern flank of the Mendips and the number of seams they contain we are impressed with the fact that we are probably far from the margin of that more extended basin in which the coal measures were originally deposited, and this impression is strengthened when we consider the geological structure of the Mendips. The anticlinal form of those hills leads at once to the inference that just as on their northern slope we find resting on the Mountain Limestone, the Millstone Grit, and the lower division of coal measures ; so on their southern slope a similar state of things may probably exist, although hidden beneath a covering of secondary rocks.

And as to the district eastward of Frome, although the Mountain Limestone probably cuts off the coal measures in a line ranging from Frome towards Bath, many circumstances lead us to hope that they may not end there. The Mendips seem to form a link in an extended mountain chain stretch-

ing from Pembrokeshire through Frome towards France and Belgium, and on the north of this range the coal measures seem to occupy not one continuous area but many subordinate basins. In this country there are those of South Wales, the Forest of Dean, and Bristol, all divided by elevations of Mountain Limestone, and there may be other similar basins stretching across the South of England. On this subject, however, there is so much uncertainty, both as to the existence of coal measures, and (supposing them to exist) as to the depth at which they may lie, that explorations will be attended with much risk.

The Flora of the Eastern Border of Somerset.

BY H. F. PARSONS, M.D.

THE eastern portion of Somerset in which we are now assembled may be briefly described as a slightly elevated inland calcareous district in the south of England, and our local flora, of which I have been asked to give you a short account, is in the main just what a botanist would expect to find in a district with these physical characters. The tract of country to which my present remarks relate is not bounded by any definite limits, except those of the county, but extends along the border of the county from Bath to Castle Cary; most of my observations have been made in the neighbourhood of Frome and Beckington. I have purposely stopped short of the sea coast and the turf moors, as well as of Bristol and Cheddar, where plants of a different and peculiar type of distribution are found. The flora of the eastern border of Somerset presents but few special characteristics; nor are very many rarities found here: our plants consist partly of such as are generally diffused throughout Great Britain and partly of species which in their distribution are confined to the south of England; but few species of an eastern, northern, or western type being found. Those who are acquainted with the works of Mr. H. C. Watson will remember that as regards their distribution the plants of Great Britain may be classed under six principal types, viz., a British type, consisting of those plants which are found throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain, *e.g.*, the daisy; an English type, plants that are more or less abundant in the south of England, but which thin out as we proceed northward, and barely reach to Scotland, *e.g.*, *Colchicum autumnale*; a Scottish type, consisting of plants which have their head quarters in Scotland, and diminish in frequency as we proceed southward;

a Highland type, comprising the most highly arctic and alpine species; a Germanic type and an Atlantic type, the former frequenting especially the eastern and the latter the western portions of our island. Of the 1370 species enumerated in the text of Watson's *Compendium*, I have observed 632, or not quite one half, in this neighbourhood. Of the 632, 449 belong to the British or British-English type, 121 to the English, 34 approach the Germanic, and 10 each the Atlantic and Scottish types, while 8 are of local or doubtful type. We are accustomed to consider Somersetshire in the west of England, and by Mr. Watson it is joined with Devon and Cornwall to form his peninsula province, yet it will be seen that the eastern plants in my catalogue considerably outnumber the western. One reason for this local preponderance of eastern species is that there are actually more plants characteristic of the east of England than there are of the west, the number of the latter being 89, and of the former 171, or nearly twice as many. But another reason is that the character of the flora of a district depends very much upon the nature of the soil, and although the eastern border of the county is politically a part of Somerset, yet geologically it forms part of the belts of oolitic and cretaceous strata which stretch across England from south to east, and a comparatively small portion of its surface rests upon the palæozoic rocks of the west. Yet the absence of the wild madder, *Rubia peregrina*, and of *Sedum anglicum*, two of the most abundant and typical western species is noteworthy, for we have in the neighbourhood many rocky limestone slopes, on which, it might be thought, they would have found a congenial home. The eastern species are as a general rule found growing either on the chalk or on the limestones and marls of the lower oolites.

Of the great variety of strata met with in this neighbourhood —a variety so great that its like is hardly to be found in any other part of England, comprising as it does most of the geological formations, from the old red sandstone and basalt to the

chalk inclusive,—almost all are more or less calcareous. The chief exceptions are the green-sand and the old red sandstone, and on these we find a flora very different, both as regards what it does and does not contain, from that on the calcareous strata. Of plants found on the limestone and marly strata the most characteristic belong to the natural orders *Leguminiferae*, *Rosaceae*, *Umbelliferae*, *Gentianaceae*, *Compositae*, *Labiatae*, and *Orchidaceae*. Among them I may mention *Hippocratea comosa*; the wild liquorice, *Astragalus glycyphyllos*; the woodwax, *Genista tinctoria*, formerly much gathered for dyeing; the lesser burnet; the wild carrot and parsnip; *Torilis infesta*, and *T. nodosa*; *Senecio erucifolius*; *Erigeron acris*; *Picris hieracioides*; *Calamintha officinalis*; *Gentiana Amarella*; *Chlora perfoliata*; and the beautiful bee orchis. The barren wet marls of the forest marble and fuller's earth in particular, bear a very characteristic calcareous flora, closely resembling that found on the chalk, more attractive however to the botanist than to the farmer, for the herbage is thin and harsh, being to a great extent made up of "carnation grass," *Carex glauca*. The flora I speak of may be well seen at the sides of the road between Beckington and Frome on Bonnyleigh and Oldford Hills. On this soil the rare grass-leaved vetch, *Lathyrus Nissolia*, grows, and a profusion of orchids may also be found. In a field called Barrow Hill, or Elm poor grounds near Buckland Dinham no less than twelve species may be found, including the uncommon *Herminium Monorchis*, and *Spiranthes autumnalis*. On the other hand many plants common on the sandy soils are either absent or very scarce on the calcareous ones, e.g., *Lastrea Oreopteris*, *Blechnum boreale*, *Papaver Argemone*, *Spergula arvensis*, *Lycopsis arvensis*, *Salix repens*, *Rumex Acetosella*, the heath tribe, the fox-glove, the *Sphagna*, and others: indeed the different facies of the vegetation is often so striking as to show at a glance the nature of the soil. The heaths and whortleberry are in my experience never found on limestone; the only instance that I know of either of them growing on the oolites is at Road Common, where a few

stunted plants of ling are found, together with the harebell and one or two heath-loving mosses and lichens, to bear witness like the name and the straight roads, to the comparatively recent date at which the land was enclosed. The geological formation here is Oxford clay, the surface bed being a sandy gravel, the Kelloway rock, so that the exception proves the rule. Several plants very common on a sandy soil in many places seem to be absent in this part of Somerset. I have not found here *Senecio sylvaticus*, *Scleranthus annuus*, *Spergularia rubra*, *Jasione montana*, *Plantago Coronopus*, nor *Anthemis nobilis*, although some of them grow in neighbouring parts of Wilts. Owing to the rarity of anything like a peaty soil, we have very few bog plants in our local flora, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Genista anglica*, *Andromeda polifolia*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Rhynchospora alba*, and *Potentilla Comarum* are not found here. The sundew, the cotton grass, the cross-leaved heath, and the bog asphodel are confined to one or two boggy places on the Mendip hills, where the old red sandstone rises to the surface. *Viola palustris*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, the dwarf willow, and the bog-mosses (*Sphagnum*) are found on the green sand as well. Of maritime plants we have of course next to none. *Trichostomum crispulum*, a moss which grows on exposed carboniferous limestone rocks at Mells is the only undoubtedly wild example. The sea thrift, *Armeria maritima*, grows in some plenty in a stony field at Great Elm, but may have been carried thither with garden rubbish. The celery, the fennel, *Smyrnium Olusatrum* and *Erodium moschatum*, also occur in the neighbourhood, but have probably been introduced. The ubiquitous sea-weeds, *Cladophora glomerata*, and *Enteromorpha intestinalis*, are found in some of our streams.

Alpine plants are absent, as our highest hills do not attain 1000 feet, Bradley Knoll being 948 feet and the highest point of Mendip at the eastern end 999 feet. As regards altitude, the whole of this neighbourhood, with the exception of the higher hills, lies in the infer-agrarian zone, the first of the six

zones of Watson. The characteristic plant of this zone, *Clematis Vitalba*, may be found as high up as the foot of Bradley Knoll, a height of 600 to 700 feet, but it does not climb the slopes of the knoll, so that here we seem to attain to the second or mid-agrarian zone. We have a few plants which are chiefly found in hilly countries, such as *Vicia sylvatica*, *Rubus suberectus*, *Pyrus Aria*, *Draba muralis*, *Lastraea Oreopteris*, *Polypodium Phegopteris*; the mosses, *Tetraphis pellucida*, *Hypnum loreum* and *brevirostre*; and the lichens, *Sticta pulmonaria* and *fuliginosa*, and *Peltigera horizontalis*, but the mosses and lichens so characteristic of mountainous countries, *Hedwigia ciliata*, *Lecidea geographica*, and the genera *Andreæa*, *Racomitrium Sphærophoron*, *Cetraria*, *Stereocaulon*, and *Cornicularia* are not, so far as I am aware, found anywhere near here. Considering the nature of the district, mosses, liverworts, and lichens are, nevertheless, very abundant here; and in some situations, such as the wooded hills of the green-sand about Gare Hill, and the rocky bottoms which traverse the mountain limestone near Mells, they attain a luxuriance that I have rarely seen equalled. *Sticta pulmonaria*, in Mells Park, forms great bunches a foot across, growing like mistletoe on the branches, and fruiting profusely. Many species that are rarely fertile may be found so in the stations I have named, e.g., *Neckera crispa* and *pumila*, *Hypnum tamariscinum*, *squarrosum*, *splendens*, *triquetrum*, and *loreum*, and *Parmelia physodes*. Fungi are also very abundant in the woods on the green sand. Club mosses are absent. Ferns are plentiful, the larger kinds being especially so in the woods on the green-sand range of hills. Our stone walls are the favourite habitat of the smaller kinds, *Ceterach officinarum* being in particular extremely abundant. Unfortunately the rarer kinds are in danger of extermination by the selfish greed of fern fanciers—they cannot be called botanists—who root them out by the cartload from their native soil to drag out a brief and miserable existence on some cockneyfied rockery. *Cystopteris fragilis*, for instance, formerly grew in the greatest profusion on a wall at Orchardleigh,

where a single frond is now hardly to be found. *Polypodium Phegopteris* is, I am informed on good authority, new to the county.

If your patience is not exhausted, I will mention a few of the rarer and more interesting flowering plants of the neighbourhood. The monkshood, *Aconitum Napellus*, grows abundantly by the river Frome and its branches at Vallis and elsewhere, but the seeds or roots may have been washed down from some garden by the stream, as it is rarely seen growing where the floods cannot reach. It is said to be native in only 5 out of 112 counties.

Helleborus foetidus, setterwort, found in 12 counties, grows in hedges at the Row near Laverton, also at Mells and Cole, but has not unlikely escaped from a garden.

Draba muralis grows on a wall at Finger Farm near Mells. It is found on limestone rocks in hilly countries in the north-west of England, Somerset being its southern limit. Being found in only 8 counties, its rarity gives it an interest which would not otherwise attach to so inconspicuous a little flower.

Erodium moschatum, musk cranes-bill.—This has been noticed at intervals during a period of at least 20 years on the wall of an orchard at Beckington. The wall was pulled down in 1870, and since 1871 I have not seen it. I have, however, known it disappear and reappear in past years, so that it may not be lost altogether. It affects limestone rocks on the west coast, and is a doubtful native at Beckington. Its census number is 10.

Impatiens Noli me tangere, wild balsam, or touch-me-not.—A single plant of this was found by the river at Vallis in 1863.

Lathyrus Aphaca, a curious little vetch without leaves, the place of which is supplied by broad leaflike stipules, grows sparingly in a hedge between Woolverton and Norton St. Philip.

Sedum album, white stonecrop, grows on a wall at Vallis and on limestone rocks at Great Elm and Holwell, but its claims to be considered a native are doubtful, as likewise those of its congener, *Sedum dasypyllyum*, which is plentiful at Buckland Dinham.

Trinia vulgaris, honewort.—A single plant of this inconspicuous little umbellifer was found by me on Bradley Knoll in 1868, but I have looked for it there several times since in vain. It grew on the chalk at a height of between 800 and 900 feet above the sea. It is a western plant and very rare, being only found in two other counties.

Polemonium caeruleum, Jacob's ladder, grows at the side of the stream at Vallis, probably wafted from some garden above.

Verbascum Lychnitis, white mullein, grows on some old walls at Beckington, where it was recorded by Sole in the last century.

Herminium Monachis, musk orchis. Barrow Hill, near Buckland Dinham. A minute green orchis with a faint smell of musk. It is an eastern plant, and attains in Somerset its extreme western limit. Watson gives it with a query as occurring in Somerset, but having found it there several years, I do not think there can be any doubt about its claim to a place in our flora.

Fritillaria Meleagris, snake's head. I have been informed that at one time this grew abundantly in a field near Norton St. Philip, but that the Bath gardeners, in the days before tender perennials and ribbon borders came into fashion, used to come and dig it up, until at the present time there is only a single plant left, which I hope that those who know of it will spare.

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum, star of Bethlehem. The local abundance of this plant is quite one of the peculiar features in our flora. It is very plentiful about Bath and southwards as far as Road, but at Beckington it begins to get scarcer, and the most southern station that I know for it is at Staplemead near Oldford. It is only found here on the lower oolites. Out of the neighbourhood of Bath it is only known for certain as a native in Bedford and Sussex. It has a long flask-shaped bulb, which sends up in March a tuft of leaves something like those of the bluebell, but of a glaucous hue, folded so as to form a channel on the upper surface, and with the end bent forward, hood-fashion. The leaves grow to a length of nearly

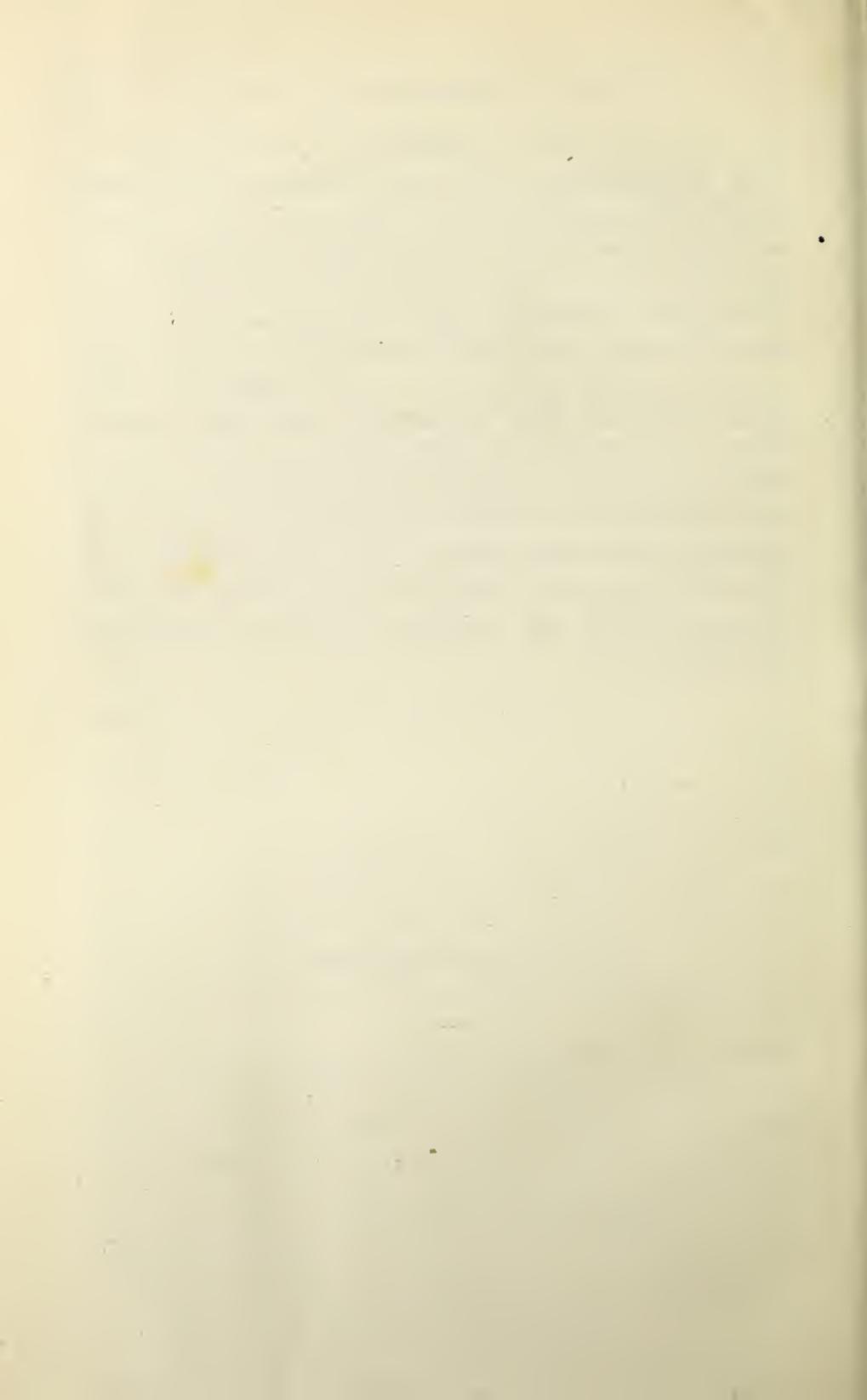
two feet, but are too weak to support themselves, so that they bend down to the ground: they fade before the flowers appear in June. The flowers are of a greenish white hue, like those of the garden star of Bethlehem, *O. umbellatum*, but smaller and arranged in a racemose manner on a slender scape, which grows to the height of 3-4 feet. The young flowering spikes are sometimes boiled and eaten by the poor people under the name of "wild asparagus."

Of the 632 plants I have mentioned, 540 are probably natives, 43 "denizens," i.e., although wild yet found only in the neighbourhood of human dwellings and therefore probably introduced by human agency, e.g., the celandine, *Chelidonium majus*; 39 "colonists," i.e., weeds of cultivated ground which, like the poppies, probably owe both their introduction and perpetuation to agriculture; and 10 are "aliens," and "casuals," i.e., undoubtedly introductions, or mere chance escapes, such as the "American weed," *Anacharis Alsinastrum*, and the canary grass. The list which I append contains in addition a number of species so notoriously exotic as not to obtain admission into *Cybele Britannica*. There are also a number of segregates, and the rest of the list is made up of cryptogamic species which I have observed in this part of Somerset. It is needless to say that I do not pretend that the list is anything like a complete one, especially as regards the lower algæ and fungi, but as faults of omission are more venial than those of commission, I have endeavoured that it shall contain nothing but what is really found here.

I have not attempted to make a compilation from published lists of Somerset plants, but only to give such as have come under my own observation. For the imperfect way in which I have fulfilled my task my excuse must be that, residing as I now do at a distance, I have, since undertaking this paper, had few opportunities of access either to my herbarium or to the localities themselves.

NOTE.

Dr. Parsons added to his paper an exhaustive list of plants found in the neighbourhood of Frome, and it was at first intended to publish this in the present volume as an appendix. It appeared however to the Committee that lists of local Flora standing alone, although locally interesting, were of but little service generally. It is proposed to compile a list for the whole county, somewhat similar to one formed by Mr. Flower, and published by the Wilts Archæological and Natural History Society. Dr. Parsons has kindly deposited his list with our Society, to be used in carrying out his scheme, and has promised his assistance in the work. The Secretary in charge of the publishing work of the Society will be most thankful if others will offer to take part in a work which seems likely to be of such permanent interest and usefulness to all lovers of the Flora of our county.



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Rules.

THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archaeology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the county of Somerset, and the establishment of a Museum and Library.

II.—The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Patron and Trustees, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General and District, or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such special Meetings and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The property of the Society shall be held in trust for the Members by twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the Members at any General Meeting. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings on admission to the Society, and Ten Shillings as an Annual Subscription, which shall become due on the 1st of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI—No change shall be made in the laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society shall (with the author's consent, and subject to the discretion of the Committee), be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—Any person contributing books or specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in the event of a dissolution of the Society. Persons shall also have liberty to deposit Books or Specimens for a specific time only.

XX.—In case of dissolution the real property of the Society in Taunton shall be held by the Trustees for the advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, in the town of Taunton and the County of Somerset.

April, 1876.

* * * *It is requested that Contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Taunton Castle.*



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 Prankerd, John, *Langport*

265 Prankerd, P. D. *The Knoll, Sneyd Park, Bristol*
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 Pulman, G. P. R. *Crewkerne*
 Pyne, Rev. W. *Charlton, Somerton*

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 Randell, Rev. Thos. *Taunton*
 Redfern, Rev. W. T. "

275 Reed, Rev. W. *Fullands, "*
 Reynolds, Vincent J. *Canons Grove, Taunton*
 Robbins, G., 9, *Royal Crescent, Bath*
 Robinson, Walter, 7, *Furnival's Inn, Holborn, London*
 Rogers, T. E. *Yarlington House, Wincanton*

280 Rowcliffe, Charles, *Milverton*
 Rowe, J. *Taunton*

Rowe, Rev. J. *Long Load, Langport*
Ruegg, Lewis H. *Sherborne, Dorset*
Ruel, Major Herbert
285 Rutter, John, *Ilminster*

Salmon, Rev. E. A. *Martock*
Sampson, Thomas, *Houndstone House, Yeovil*
Sanford, W. A. *Nynehead Court*
Searth, Rev. H. M. *Wrington, Bristol*
290 Scott, Rev. J. P. *Staplegrove*
Scratchley, Rev. C. J. *Lydeard St. Lawrence*
Sears, R. H. *Priory House, Taunton*
Serel, Thomas, *Wells*
Seymour, Alfred, *Knoyle, Wilts*
295 *Seymour, H. D. " "
Shelmerdine, T. *Langport*
Shepherd, J. W. *Ilminster*
Shore, J. *Whatley, near Frome*
Shout, R. H. *Horsington, Wincanton*
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Skrine, H. D. *Warleigh Manor, Bath*
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305 Smith, Cecil, *Bishops Lydeard*
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Solly, Miss L. *Bath*
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Sparks, William, *Crewkerne*
Sparks, W. B. "
Speke, W. *Jordans, near Ilminster*
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 Thomas, C. J. *Drayton Lodge, Redland, Bristol*

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 Thring, Theodore, " "
 Todd, Lt-Col. *Keynston Lodge, Blandford*
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 Tuckwell, Rev. W. *Taunton*
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 Turner, Henry G. "",
 Tyack, S. C. *Taunton*

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 Warren, Rev. J. *Bawdrip*
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 Welch, C. *Minehead*

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White, Rev. F. W. *Crowle, Doncaster*
Whitfield, Rev. E. *Ilminster*
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Williams, Rev. Wadham Pigott, *Bishops Hull*
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Woodforde, G. A., *Castle Cary*
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Colby, Rev. W. *Almsford, Castle Cary*
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420 O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien, *Long Ashton*
 Parsons, H. F., M.D. *Goole, Yorkshire*
 Penny, T. *Taunton*
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 Samuelson, H. B. *Hazelgrove, Ilchester*

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